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# ***JPRS Report***

## **Near East & South Asia**

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# Near East & South Asia

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**Karabakh Seen as 'Rebirth of Rebellious Spirit'**  
*46050002 Beirut AZTAG in Armenian 17 Sep 88 p 1*

[Editorial: "'Children of Peaceful Plains, Rise to the Mountains'"]

[Excerpts] The handful of Armenians of the Musa Dagh who rose to the mountains bequeathed upon the Armenian people and all of mankind an eternal story of heroism.

The 40 days of the heroic battle of Musa Dagh have become a memorial to dignity, bravery and rebellion for the Armenian people who, to this day, look to their future through the memory of that battle.

It is this passion for rebellion which has been reborn in the miracle of Artsakh. "The children of peaceful plains" listen to the Ardavaztian message coming from the mountains and the valleys and, while the hired iron-smiths of the Turk try to tighten the chains that manacle the eternal rights of the Armenian people, they give life to their determination to rise up against Turanist conspiracies.

While the Armenian Artsakh stands up resolutely against Turanist conspiracies, though with only a bare neck, the landless fragment of the Armenian nation, the part known as the Diaspora, slowly declines, fades and falls victim to those same conspiracies. Safe from any physical threats, the Armenians of the the Diaspora today combat moral decay and the threat of declining national values which have already assumed alarming proportions.

The Artsakh has lit the glorious torch that illuminates the path of salvation.

Musa Dagh was already an unrefutable beacon on this path.

Today, the Armenian nation lives in new conditions and has to cope with new circumstances. These new conditions mandate new means of struggle, but the rebellious spirit of the Armenian people, the spirit that spurs the struggle, remains the basic tool.

Today, in the crucible of the Artsakhian struggle, the people of our Motherland reenact their history by banding together.

The Diaspora is obligated to follow this path of solidarity.

Solidarity with a reaffirmation of unity.

Solidarity with the determination of not shrinking from uneven battle.

Solidarity with a vision of a united national struggle.

"Children of the peaceful plains, rise to the mountains."

**Official Turkish Stance on  
Karabakh Committee Demands**

*46050003 Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian  
22 Sep 88 p 1*

[Text] Ankara has been monitoring closely the demands of Soviet Armenia with regard to the autonomous region of Karabakh and its numerous appeals to Moscow on this issue as well as the related events. Turkey has watched these events calmly while making sure that it avoid any interference in the internal affairs of a neighboring country. The stance taken by Gorbachev and the USSR Supreme Soviet on this issue mollified Ankara's worries on this matter.

However, Turkish circles have begun to feel uneasy once again because the special committee working for the reunification of Karabakh with Soviet Armenia has recently coupled its efforts on Karabakh with a drive to persuade Moscow to pressure Turkey on the recognition of the Armenian genocide.

In view of the campaign for international pressure to have the genocide recognized and the declaration of 24 April as an official day of mourning in the Soviet Union, the spokesman of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Inal Batu said:

"There is no indication that Moscow could accept such a proposal. We do not think that the Gorbachev administration will take an undesirable stance on this issue. This is our wish."

## REGIONAL

### Tunisia To Export Oil in 1992

45000026 *London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic*  
20 Sep 88 p 8

[Text] About 15 percent of the revenues from the al-Bouri oil field which was inaugurated by Libyan leader Muammar al-Qadhafi and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the Libyan Continental Shelf region will be used to finance joint Tunisian-Libyan projects that will be realized on Tunisian territory.

The most important of these projects is the highway connecting the Libyan border with the road that links the Tunisian and Egyptian borders through the town of Sfax in southern Tunisia.

The agreement was signed during the Tunisian president's visit to Libya last month and its details were made public. It stipulates joint and equal investment in the area north of the al-Bouri field which is considered to be the largest oil field in the Mediterranean basin and one of the world's most important oil fields.

The oil exploration operations in this area will be carried out through a joint foundation after studies that were conducted revealed the possibility of the existence of large quantities of oil in the area. This will enable Tunisia to become a petroleum exporting country in 1992.

## PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

### Obstacles To Working, Residency in Jordan Described

#### West Bank Break Creates Residency Hardships

44040019 *Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI*  
in Arabic 17 Sep 88 p 12

[Text] West Bank residents consider a day on which they enter or exit over the crossings at the Jordan River "a day to be reckoned with!" In other words, the measures to which they are subjected on that day leave no room in their wake for thinking about undertaking any other task than going from the house to the bridge, or from the bridge to the house.

After the Jordanian decision to break with the West bank, a day at the bridge on the Jordanian side not only consumes a lot of time, but has come to entail hardship, pain, and wary and suspicious looks which follow our citizens from the moment they enter Jordan until they leave! Everyone in Jordanian governmental agencies who has specific dealing with citizens of the occupied territories has become an expert in contriving measures and impediments, so that people going to Amman have come to require first aid for high blood pressure upon returning from it.

Following the break, the baggage search at the Jordanian checkpoint has become a new experience for West Bank citizens. The person conducting the search carries a calculator to calculate not only your every move, but also the period set for your stay in Jordan, which is 28 days compared to the previous 30-day period. Why is it now 28 days, and not a month, for example? God only knows?! Perhaps the security authorities now believe that all the months of the year have become February!!

A foreign visitor coming to Jordan, on the other hand, receives a two-week visa at the airport, and can easily renew it a number of times from his hotel through tourist agencies.

Thus, under the pretext of safeguarding Palestinian identity, a father visiting his son living in Amman is an alien according to the customary law of Jordanian authorities. A Palestinian family can be broken up because one member has a two-year temporary passport, and another has a Jordanian passport which is valid for five years, or because a man is entitled to stay with his wife in Jordan for a month, while his wife enjoys the right of permanent residency.

When you enter Amman today, you are overwhelmed by the governmental agencies relevant to accomplishing your business. Despite the increase in the number of these governmental agencies "following the break with the West Bank," they present more complications and longer lines! A West Bank resident who needs to obtain certification of a single document must anticipate needing at least a week to take care of his business. If he has more than one document requiring certification, he must plan to stay in Jordan for a month and bring enough funds to cover living and transportation expenses, processing fees, and other expenses.

Having to wait in line at every governmental agency also presents hardships, be it the passport agency, the conscription and mobilization agency, the prosecution and investigation agency, and others. In addition, there are other agencies where visiting students, merchants, those employed abroad, or retirees must wait in order to take care of their business!!

If a West Bank resident is able to leave Amman—most who do so, go to Arab countries—whoever receives him on the basis of his temporary passport, treats him as if he came from another planet!! This is with the acknowledgement of the Jordanian Minister of Interior himself, Raja'i al-Dajani.

If the Jordanian authorities recognize the suffering caused by their new measures to the people of the occupied territories, why did they implement these measures in the first place? Is it a plan which aims at nothing more than Jordan's announced claim that the new measures are intended to safeguard Palestinian identity, knowing that the Palestinian himself is as desirous as can be of affirming and accentuating this identity?

It is our growing belief that this plan has unannounced objectives, and that there are numerous parties in Jordan who are currently dissatisfied with the practice of measures which invalidate the rights of the people of the occupied territories!! Moreover, the elevated stature of our people will always remain above the plans of any Arab regime, and our people will remain alert and steadfast in opposition to those conspiring against its cause.

**Teacher complains About Work Restrictions**

44040019 Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI  
in Arabic 13 Aug 88 p 57

[Text of letter from Palestinian Schoolteacher to AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI]

[Text] Dear editorial director of AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI, pursuant to the freedom to publish, I request that the following be published:

Three years ago, I [began] working as a teacher in a West Bank school. However, after four months, I received a dismissal letter from the education officer based on political considerations. At that time, I had submitted an application for employment to the ministry of education in Jordan. The ministry had approved my appointment, but the intelligence services rejected it under the pretense that my file was blacklisted because of my political activity at the university at which I studied. Naturally I do not wish to talk about the treatment which I received from the Jordanian intelligence services; however, after a lot of trouble, and as a result of the intervention of an individual who has authority in Jordan, my appointment was approved.

The tragedy is not concealed in what I just stated; rather it is in what I will now relate. The first tragedy is that all West Bank workers in Jordan are employed on the basis of annual contracts, and are obliged to return to the West Bank during the summer break. This creates significant problems, including the fact that the Israeli authorities obstruct, as well as prevent and refuse, people who wish to travel to Jordan. In addition, the only ones whom they permit to travel are those having certification of payment of the numerous taxes imposed on our people. For example, I must pay double what I have saved by working in Jordan in order to return to Jordan. When I presented these problems to an official in Jordan, I did not find attentive ears, and it sufficed for him to say that I had to travel to the West Bank, because the occupation aims to empty the homeland of its inhabitants?!

The second tragedy is that the Jordanian government terminated the contracts of close to 600 West Bank teachers on the pretext that the Law in Service of Knowledge does not permit them to work more than three or four years.

On the basis of what I have stated, one is entitled to ask the following questions:

- Why are they crying over the Palestinian cause in Jordan, yet placing obstacles in the way of our people?
- Whose interests are served by the payment of taxes to the Israeli authorities?
- Is there coordination and exchange of information between the Israeli and Jordanian governments with regard to those who are politically active?
- Is one who struggles for the sake of removing the yoke of the occupation considered to be of ill repute and badly behaved in Jordan?
- Does Jordan really desire that the homeland not be emptied of its inhabitants?
- Whose interests are served by terminating the contracts of teachers in Jordan when these teachers urgently need work in order to fulfill their responsibilities?
- And why does supreme Jordanian law not apply to this unfortunate people?

[Signed] A Teacher in Jordan.

**ALGERIA**

**Political Factors of Unrest Discussed**

45190006 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Oct 88 p 4

[Article by Jean de la Gueriviere: "An Authoritarian Regime, But Not Monolithic"]

[Text] What are the civilian and military leaders in Algeria going to do if young people defy the state of siege in the capital or rise up in the provinces? If such a crisis occurred in Morocco or Tunisia, the answer would be simple: They would do what the king or president told them.

The paradox of Algeria, the so-called "Prussia of the Maghreb," is that political debate—in which the public is not permitted to engage—seems to be raging within the ranks of the leadership itself. Decisions within it are made on the basis of a subtle, shifting balance of forces quite difficult to see in the official rhetoric put out by the regime.

It is too early to say whether the events now under way will benefit President Chadli, who could invoke them as justification for his reforms, or his adversaries, who might claim they are in fact the cause of the disorder. But it is clear the outcome will depend on the hidden motives at work within a closed circle of high officials.

Authoritarian but not monolithic, the regime's foundation is an uneasy and conflicting cohabitation of party "dinosaurs" with reformist technocrats and civilian with military officials, complicated further by the presence within the party and government of an army which itself is divided.

President Chadli was elected in January 1984 with more than 95 percent of the vote. It is well known in Algeria that certain administrative formalities are much more

easily satisfied if one has a properly stamped voter's card, and not everyone is brave enough to invite the special attention of watchful election officials by turning in a ballot with the "wrong" markings. But these elections are not totally without meaning, inasmuch as they function to ratify the candidate chosen by the FLN at a congress which is more than a mere formality, though expressions of unity in the opening and closing speeches mask the bitterness of the debates behind closed doors.

In the 5-year intervals between congresses, the Central Committee and the Political Bureau watch over continued implementation of the "line." It is with these bodies that the head of state, who is also the secretary general of the party, must come to terms. The composition of the Political Bureau has not changed greatly in quite some while. That could signify stability, but also a fear of bringing tensions to a head. The number two man in the FLN, Mr Mohamed Cherif Messadia, is considered the guardian of socialist orthodoxy. The Moroccans, who had dealings with him prior to normalization of diplomatic relations, paint him nevertheless as a man capable of change, like Mr Khediri, the former head of the Internal Security Service who became minister of interior and was the architect of a selective opening.

#### **The Army: Omnipresent...and Unknown**

In addition to his duties as an indefatigable official spokesman, Mr Messadia has been put in charge of restraining the fractious impulses of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), the country's only trade union confederation, which operates under the aegis of the party. Like the other "mass" organizations (women, mujahidins, etc.), the UGTA has seen its role diminish with some of its pro-Marxist members content to write uninspired articles for confidential publications, but it is still capable of delivering mule kicks when the opportunity presents itself. For all too long the principal utility of the official labor umbrella was to discourage strikes. Although discredited, it is still able to drag disputes out and mobilize in defense of the government which has brought it into such low repute.

The army, which is currently being called upon to take matters directly in hand in the capital city, remains the great enigma. Its strength and importance are understood, but not the attitudes of the majority of its cadres. According to the opposition in exile, the staff officers belonging to the "Boumedienist" faction are in open conflict—especially when it comes to the subject of the Western Sahara—with the policy line represented by Mr Khediri and Colonel Larbi Belkheir, a close associate of Mr Chadli in the office of the Presidency.

Out of the 3,200 delegates to the party congress convoked to name a candidate to succeed Boumedienne after his death in 1979, more than 600 were members of the military (the proportion remained nearly the same in subsequent congresses, where the rows of olive-green uniforms were always a conspicuous presence). Quite

naturally they had designated the officer with the most seniority at the highest rank as coordinator of military affairs during the protracted succession drama. The president, in turn, cannot forget who brought him to power, even if he never wears his uniform anymore.

Due to the fact that many officers were trained in the USSR—if only to learn how to use their own equipment, some 90 percent of which was of Soviet origin by the early 1980's—the army has long had a reputation for being leftist. But the 2,500 or so Soviet advisers who departed Algeria after Boumedienne's death were not universally admired, and indeed it would seem that only financial considerations have kept Algeria from acquiring more materiel from the West.

In June 1965, at the time of the coup that overthrew Ben Bella, a civilian, the Council of the Revolution proclaimed: "The People's National Army, worthy successor and heir to the glorious National Liberation Army, will never allow itself to be cut off from the people. It came from the people, and from the people it draws its strength and purpose." Mr Chadli, however, encroached to some extent on what had been an egalitarian and populist tradition by enhancing officer professionalism. He went so far as to put generals on a general staff which traditionally consisted only of colonels....

In a country where there is no surplus of competence in the bureaucracy, many officers have been named to civilian positions such as "wali" (prefect), and have thus subjected to all the temptations of enrichment such offices afford. It may be that some of the younger officers resent the arrogance of certain colonels whose fortunes have grown too rapidly.

Recently the noncommissioned officers began raising questions. Ostensibly their questions concerned officers accused of diversion of funds, notably the army's social welfare fund. According to the clandestine opposition, however, it was less a matter of eliminating corruption in public administration than of settling personal scores within the military. Sudden promotions and equally sudden falls from grace—which may take the form of being named an ambassador, or even a cabinet minister in a government which does not hold the reins of real power—have been seen in recent years.

The "resignation," officially for reasons of health, of General Mustapha Benloucif, who as chief of staff was the architect of the army's modernization, and his replacement by General Abdellah Belhouchet, who is also deputy national defense minister (the ministerial title is held by the head of state), have been interpreted as major episodes in the intramilitary power struggle.

Composed of nearly 100,000 men, the People's National Army "participates, within the framework of the party, in the political as well as economic and social activities of the party." In principle, 2 years of national service are mandatory. But the very large number of young people



of military age creates serious administrative problems. Most conscripts are employed on major national development projects such as the trans-Saharan highway or the "green dam" of trees intended to stop the advance of the desert. It is rather unlikely that these unassuming soldiers would pose any problems for the officers if the latter, rising above their differences, should order strong action.

**Police Crack Large-Scale Embezzlement Case**  
*45000025 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic*  
1 Oct 88 p 8

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has requested of the justice minister that "the implementation of the laws be just and safeguarded from all undue influence." In particular, he insisted on "combatting negative phenomena such as embezzlement." This was the Algerian presidential directive stated in President Bendjedid's speech in which he alluded to a case of embezzlement that has provoked a great outcry in the Algerian capital.

The operation, amounting to \$30 million (170 million Algerian dinars), was the largest embezzlement case of the Banque Exterieur d'Algerie. Algerian sources have disclosed that the police have arrested 22 people, 13 of whom are officers and employees of the bank. Security personnel believe that the operation would not have been accomplished without the collusion of the bank's regional director.

As for how the operation was carried out and how it was discovered, Algerian sources have indicated, and this in the absence of any official charges until the investigation has been concluded and the case has been brought to trial, "that colluding bank employees were using forged files that permitted the embezzlement of the funds in order to grant unjustified loans to a number of officers. After obtaining the funds, these officers were buying real estate and luxurious cars.

The embezzlement was exposed by investigators of the economic and financial crime team, who were surveilling a previously convicted suspect. The investigators noticed the unusual conduct of the suspect, which caused them to intensify their surveillance and discover the whole network.

Algerian official circles believe that the bank can recover a large part of its money now that the authorities have gotten their hands on the suspects' property, which included a dance hall, a game room, a store, 4 restaurants, 15 villas, and 20 cars.

## EGYPT

**Former Minister Views Economic Solutions**  
*45040019A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic*  
16 Sep 88 pp 54-55

[Interview with Former Economic Minister Hasan 'Abbas Zaki, by Amir al-Zahhar: "If the Bureaucratic Routine in Egypt Were a Man, I Would Kill Him!"; in Cairo, date not given]

[Text] Dr Hasan 'Abbas Zaki is one of the most capable experts on Egyptian economics. He was in charge of the Ministries of Finance and Economy during the midfifties, sixties, and early seventies—i.e., during most of the administration of the late leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. He now heads an international Arab bank in Egypt and is active in banking and economic affairs from a position of expertise and responsibility.

AL-HAWADITH went to Dr Hasan 'Abbas Zaki to ask his opinion on the economic problems from which Egypt is suffering and about the solutions he proposes for them. The following interview took place:

[Question] Some people say that the problem of the Egyptian economy basically goes back to a lack of resources and facilities, while others say the cause is bad management. How do you see the problem of Egypt's economy?

[Answer] Let us first talk about the components on which economic success depends any place in the world so we see the problem and prescribe a sound solution for it. These components are clear and well-known factors, represented by natural resources, labor, and capital. To these we will add, from the requirements of modern development, technology and administrative progress.

Natural resources are to a large extent available in Egypt—agriculture, industry, location, etc. Labor, too, is available in large quantity as is demonstrated by the fact that Egypt exports talent and labor to various parts of the world—Europe, America, or the fraternal Arab countries—even though at present there are deficiencies in certain labor specializations. The third element, capital, is relatively available, though not in sufficient degree and not sufficiently put to work. Nevertheless, factors for supplementing this element are present since Egypt possesses an atmosphere and advantages suited to attracting capital and investments from abroad. The fourth factor, technology, is to a great extent available, and more of it can be brought in. The major problem in Egypt now is in administration. There exist accumulated administrative obstacles whose treatment continues to proceed slowly.

[Question] What do these administrative obstacles consist of?

[Answer] Leaving aside the obstacles that led to a decline in the efficiency of the public sector, let us look at what is happening in the investment sector, which needs flexibility and facilitated operation. For example, you may get approval to establish an investment project. At the top administrative levels this may happen quickly. Indeed, you can meet the minister and head of the Investment Authority, not to mention the constant welcome and encouragement the president of the country extends to private investment. But as soon as you begin dealing with the lower administrative and executive levels, you come up against many obstacles—obtaining land for the project, registering ownership in the land registry office, the banking system, or customs. Sometimes you may find that someone tells you to go to the law, which says thus and so. The officials may agree, but then you find differing interpretations and endless obstacles.

While many steps have been taken to lessen these obstacles—for example, the trend to unify the exchange rate and consolidate various administrative departments and services in the building of the Investment Authority—this should be done in the various departments with which the investor deals. Ideally, consolidation would take place in each individual investment sector—such as the agricultural, industrial, or tourist sector.

[Question] What is the way to eliminate these administrative obstacles completely?

[Answer] By changing certain laws that still stand as a real obstacle to the advancement of investment and production. In addition, rules and administrative procedures must be clear. There must be something resembling the internationally well-known blue paper that includes implementation plans. For example: For me to implement investments in the field of agriculture or land reclamation, when I give approval for the project and allocate land for it, [the land] must be handed over immediately. Furthermore, all necessary services and utilities must be available—electricity, water, roads, etc. If they are not there, I would not begin. If they are there, and functionaries interrupt them, I would change the functionaries quickly and resolutely. I would put the representatives of the different administrative agencies dealing with agriculture in one place nearby. The Ministry of Tourism has been very successful in implementing such a concept. The results of its success have quickly become visible in an observable influx of Arab and foreign tourism and investment into Egypt. I can say that administrative obstacles are the most serious enemy facing the Egyptian economy. If these obstacles and bureaucratic routine were a man, I would kill him.

[Question] Regarding the labor element, you mentioned that there are certain negative aspects. What do these consist of, and how can they be remedied?

[Answer] There are negative aspects in the labor element within the Egyptian economy and other negative aspects regarding the labor force that is exported. Domestically,

the current labor laws have become a factor impeding production. I can even describe them as unjust laws—to the employer. When the revolution took place in the fifties and sixties, workers and wage-earners were mistreated and abused. The revolution therefore promulgated laws to compensate factory workers, agricultural hired labor, and others. There was a social and revolutionary need for this. Now, however, the situation has been completely reversed. The employer is mistreated in the presence of the workers. The hired laborer has become the exploiter. The tenant on agricultural land has become virtually the real owner of it and its return. The worker in the factory or in the administration draws his salary even if he does not achieve the production demanded from him; and the laws help him in this. The employer cannot fire him. Does this benefit the work? Does it benefit production or the Egyptian economy?

There is also the policy of obligation to appoint [university] graduates [to government jobs], despite the difficulty of absorbing them. There is the system of veiled unemployment, which hinders production in government work places. Some time ago, I proposed a system to encourage work in the private sector, or a study of overseas markets for migrant labor and helping graduates travel, or giving graduates unemployment assistance until real jobs are available for them. In addition, the structure of the labor force must be redistributed so as to prevent veiled unemployment, recertify and retrain elements that are unproductive in current positions, and encourage them to work overseas. This is what the role of the Ministry of Emigration should be—not useless debates, conferences, parties, and receptions.

The other negative side of the labor issue is the fact that we are not keeping up with the requirements of modern developments in foreign labor markets, especially in the building and contracting sectors. Building no longer relies on manual labor, but on machines and computers that operate and complete projects as quickly as possible. The Ministry of Emigration must also prepare training aids, even if these are funded by fees paid by workers and emigrants.

[Question] You mentioned that the element of capital is to some extent available and that more can be attracted. How can that be done?

[Answer] The financial market in Egypt alone has deposits of over 30 billion [Egyptian] pounds. These deposits should be a source of credit and financing for projects and investment. Credit difficulties arose because of certain negative situations, but they were remedied, and credit will again be released to encourage investment. There should be concentration on small and medium productive projects. An international organization has offered help in the area of encouraging the small private producer. This offer has remained under study for a long

time. It is strange how long it takes to solve problems in Egypt, even when these problems have been studied to death. You can find a special file for each problem and a study in the various agencies of the government, such as the specialized national councils, the Ministry of Administrative Development, the Cabinet, or the press, which handle all matters in no uncertain terms. Nevertheless, solutions come slowly, and there is hesitation to take the right steps at the appropriate time.

To make sufficient capital available, channels must be created to encourage the attraction of savings and participation in investments, either by increasing interest rates or by issuing variable-rate receipts and bonds to savers who prefer to invest according to the Islamic method. They represent a large volume that must be taken into consideration as other countries like Turkey, Jordan, Pakistan, and others have done. The greatest evidence for the existence of savings is the success of the investment companies in amassing no less than \$7 billion. The new law has indeed created certain channels of Islamic investment for financial companies, but the market needs more of these channels so it does not slip away. The banks must be encouraged to create new activities and companies in the fields of investments, financial portfolios, etc.

An important element the Egyptian financial market lacks is credit insurance companies. The banks could establish companies for insurance among themselves.

[Question] Where is the role of planning in all this?

[Answer] Frankly, there is no integration among many elements that should be present to achieve economic success and development. To be even more frank, the plan is not coherent. In its present state, it talks about inputs and outputs in figures and sums of money. For example, allocations are said to be 100 million, and the plan is based on the figure. But when you look at the implementation, you may find that a large part of the sum has been swallowed up by inflation and that only 70 percent of what was asked was realized. This being so, the plan must be concrete. Projects must be defined in it, and all accessories, such as utilities and infrastructures, must be present so investments do not stop in midstream or take double the time. With a concrete plan, inadequacy is exposed and negative aspects remedied.

[Question] Are there areas of production capable of surging forward even with their current facilities and circumstances? What are they? How?

[Answer] There are indeed many areas that could achieve much better production with their current facilities. Khan al-Khalili crafts are the most obvious example. Metal artifacts could achieve greater success if they were given more attention. I would mention that a Swedish organization came to visit Khan al-Khalili. Its members purchased many examples of metal work. We

were surprised by the establishment of factories in Sweden producing works of art and metal work similar to what is produced in Egypt but marketed as having been produced in Sweden. Certainly, more attention must be given to hand crafts—to improving them and developing means for marketing them.

Also, current production could be increased by remedying the phenomenon of high loss in commodities. There is a high rate of loss in vegetables, fruits, and grains. By saving them, production could be increased. There is also poor distribution and many circles of middlemen, increasing prices and the cost of production.

[Question] How can the problem of loss be remedied and cost elements decreased?

[Answer] Means of collection, transport, storage, and distribution must be improved. The best way of doing so would be to set up specialized companies owning fleets for transport and proper storage and handling distribution instead of the slow, traditional ways through expensive designated markets, especially since the seller passes on any loss to the consumer by raising prices.

In addition, what are called "consumer associations" must be established. They play an important role in protecting the consumer, and they also force the producer to improve his merchandise and lower its price. These associations would publish bulletins advising on the purchase of certain commodities from particular places that realize benefit for the consumer. This role could lead to lack of interest in certain bad or high-priced commodities with the result that they would improve.

In this area, it is also necessary to control importation and not open the doors all the way. One must keep in mind the capabilities of Egypt as a country whose economy has suffered for many years from the expenses of successive wars.

[Question] If the achievement of comprehensive growth requires enormous resources and time, are there priorities with which one can begin?

[Answer] In general, production in all areas and at a good level is required. We desire it not only at the domestic level, but also to compete in export markets and to save on imports. But the most important area where Egypt holds a relative advantage and which at the same time represents the most important requirements of Egyptian society is that of agricultural production and processing. Egypt imports more than 60 percent of its food. Given the population increase, without a corresponding increase in productivity the problem will become more complex. Although positive steps have been realized in agriculture recently, they are not sufficient. A number of

important measures must be taken to restore the Egyptian village to its previous commitment to production and to make the Egyptian peasant again take an interest in his land and production instead of turning to city life.

The population must be redistributed with the correct balance so agricultural specializations do not disappear and the specialized agricultural work force does not decrease. Migration from the countryside to the city must therefore be prevented. Agricultural work must be encouraged, and the increasing trend toward consumption must not be encouraged. There must be a study of the dangerous population structure whereby those under the age of production form a high proportion. This must be remedied immediately, and there must be planning on that basis. In general, Egyptian society as a whole must realize that its life and future depend on belief in a number of principles taken together: working to increase production, encouraging investment, improving distribution and lessening loss, the stability of the economic and social climate, and the stability of values, customs, and national ethics as an element in real progress.

[Question] As former Egyptian minister of economy, what do you think of current economic relations between the Arab countries?

[Answer] Regretfully, economic relations between the Arab states are not what they should be, either at the level of dealings between governments or of dealings between the peoples themselves. The evidence is simple and visible. Individuals and capital do not move easily between the Arab states. Strangely, most of the Arab states import approximately the same commodities despite the fact that there are possibilities for producing some of them. Arab capital should join together to establish projects to produce the commodities that these states import at great expense from abroad. These projects would be established in the Arab state with a relative advantage for a particular kind of production, and commodities exchange would take place. This would produce sufficiency in most requirements, replacing control by foreign producers over our food security. Savings vessels and strong financial markets must be created in the Arab countries to attract Arab money to invest and save within the [Arab] homeland.

[Question] How do you envision the beginning of the achievement of Arab economic integration? Where do we begin?

First, all the Arab states, and foremost among them Egypt, should ease the movement and investment of Arab capital internally and facilitate ownership and movement. Priority should be given to Arab workers and Arab investors so we avoid the political, ethical, and religious problems that result from a high proportion of foreign workers. Work and production zones should be so distributed that each country is satisfied that the

productive projects established in other countries are more suited to them and that production will thereby be better and cheaper for everyone.

This is exactly what is happening in the EC countries. We must plan, starting now, for the establishment of an Arab common market. Gradual progress must definitely be made in this. The places ready for this beginning are the GCC countries where facilities for integration are present on the financial and monetary side as well as on the geographical and productive side. The Arabs must move forward quickly along this road because temporal and cultural development wait for no one.

#### **Ministry of Agriculture Gives Statistics for Cultivated Land Area**

45000021 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, has announced that total cultivated land in Egypt this year amounted to 7,144,937 feddans. He said that the calculation was done using aerial photography and was based on studies done by the Ministry of Agriculture that took a whole year.

Dr Ibrahim 'Antar, head of the executive committee for land improvement projects, said that 300,000 feddans of cultivated land were lost as a result of building construction, and that the calculations included 720,000 feddans of reclaimed fallow land. He also said that there are 158,202 feddans of fallow land that have not been reclaimed.

#### **Orientalist Alleges Israeli Center Intelligence Connections**

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-YAQZAH AL-'ARABIYAH in Arabic, in its October 1988 issue, and Nicosia FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH in Arabic, on 25 September 1988, discuss the Israeli Academic Center in Cairo. 'Arafah 'Abdu 'Ali, described as a member of the French Scientific Institute for Oriental Antiquities and the author of both articles, traces the history of the founding of the Center in Cairo since it began its activities in 1982. He writes an elaborate biography of Shim'on Shamir, the current Israeli Ambassador to Egypt and the first director of the Center. In AL-YAQZAH AL-'ARABIYAH magazine, he emphasizes that Shamir was instrumental in establishing the Center and is connected with Israeli intelligence. He mentions that Shamir, in an interview with the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV, had predicted Sadat's assassination as early as 11 September 1981. He cites the contribution of Gavri'el Farburg, the second director of the Center in 1984. He gives special attention to the present director, Asher 'Ovadya, whose artistic talent, persuasive ability, and use of money for research, he writes, have succeeded in convincing many Egyptians to cooperate in the Center's research and studies.

In FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH, the author claims that this success is a real danger to the culture of Egypt and consequently to the Arab world, since "the Center represents an academic cover-up for the Israeli intelligence agency, Mosad, which is acquiring a great amount of information about the political, economic, social, cultural and military aspects of Egypt and about Egyptian society as a whole." He accuses the Center of deliberately trying to destroy the sense of an Arab identity by publishing studies that stress the ethnic differences among the Coptic and Muslim populations in order to brainwash Egyptians, weaken their resistance to Israeli ideology, and extol Jewish historians. He says that this has permitted the Center to participate in spiriting many of the Geniza documents, dealing with Egyptian Jewish history, out of Egypt.

The author urges the Egyptian people to defend Arab and Egyptian nationalism against what he describes as "a pit of spies who are spreading their poison all over Egypt."

In AL-YAQZAH AL-'ARABIYAH, he adds that the Center uses an American umbrella for its endeavors in many fields of study, listing a number of American researchers in Egypt with Jewish names as proof of this. He says that the normalization between Israel and Egypt and the special relationship with the United States "render Egypt a fertile ground for the Mosad and the CIA." This became clear in 1985, he says, when a spy network of Israelis, Americans and some Egyptian elements was uncovered. He indicates in FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH, moreover, that the American University in Cairo, the American Research Center, the American Cultural Center, the Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, the AID program and the M.I.T branch at Cairo University coordinate closely with the Israeli Academic Center.

In his FALASTIN AL-THAWRAH article, the author demands that the people meet this challenge head-on and "confront and uncover this dangerous American-Zionist threat."

#### **Shaykh al-Azhar Forms Fatwa Committees in Governorate Capitals**

45000022 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Oct 88 p 6

[Text] Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq, Shaykh of al-Azhar, has established fatwa [formal legal opinions on Islamic law] committees in the governorate capitals to answer the citizens' questions and inquiries on various issues of fiqh [Islamic jurisprudence] and religion. These committees are formed from ulema representing the 4 schools of fiqh.

#### **Bani Suwayf Governor Closes All Liquor Producers, Distributors**

45000023 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Oct 88 p 7

[Report by Buthaynah Zakariyah]

[Text] Bani Suwayf—Maj Gen Husayn Mudin, governor of Bani Suwayf, has decided to close all shops and producers of wine and alcoholic beverages of all types.

He has also decided to remove all warehouses and factories producing alcoholic beverages from the roster of trade and industrial shops that are organized under Law 453 of 1956.

The decision came as a response to the insistence of the masses in an open meeting that the governor holds each Monday. Bahir Darwish, general secretary of the governorate, stated that approximately 19 shops from all parts of the governorate will be included in this decision. This was preceded by a 1982 closure decision, but the shopowners took legal action to reopen them.

The governor decided to close them a second time, applying a local law that allows governors to eliminate or remove certain shops listed on the roster if they consider it in accordance with the law, i.e., the governors are responsible for security and morals and are the public custodians.

#### **Report Cites Sources of Nile River Pollution**

45040017 Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic

21 Sep 88 pp 27-29

[Article by 'Afaf al-Dahshan]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Industrial waste in Egypt is now a grave threat to the natural environment and aquatic habitats.

By the year 2000 the quantity of liquid waste dumped into the Nile and its tributaries and in drainage canals will amount to approximately 9.7 billion cubic meters a year. Treatment of this liquid waste, which is required to achieve statutory controls and standards, costs between 1.227 and 4.227 billion pounds. This treated water can be utilized in many projects: It can be used to plant trees which are grown for lumber, and to increase fish resources. Scientific research at Asyut University confirmed that Egypt was losing 60 million pounds a year to deal with the pollution in the Nile River and to maintain the ideal water quality ratio. In addition, Egypt is incurring other material losses as a result of the fact that schools of fish are dying. Other losses have to do with aesthetic aspects of the river and the enjoyment people get from those aspects. Such losses are difficult to estimate in monetary terms.

#### **Egypt's Scientists: A Warning!**

What are scientists saying about water pollution in the Nile River? What are they saying about the effects of this phenomenon on the environment? Is it possible to utilize this water after it is treated? What are the appropriate methods of treatment? What is the state's plan to protect the Nile and its tributaries from pollution? In addition, what are agencies concerned about pollution doing to protect the Nile?

Dr al-Mahmadi 'Id, chief of the Environmental Affairs Agency, has this to say about the polluting effect that liquid industrial waste has on the aquatic habitat: "Dumping untreated industrial waste into waterways has had some effects.

"Chemical and biological water pollution has affected fish resources and polluted the water in some of the Nile's canals. The water is so polluted that it is no longer suitable as a source of drinking water; nor is it suitable for agricultural purposes.

"The degree of water pollution in some coastal areas off the Mediterranean Sea is such that tourist and recreational usage of the beaches has been affected.

"Ground water is polluted in some areas, and that has had an effect on man's health and on the well-being of animals and plants which use this water."

Dr Fatimah al-Juhari, chief of the Water Pollution Research Laboratory at the National Research Center, had this to say about the possibility that in Egypt water from industrial waste can be used: "Because of the pressing need for agricultural expansion and because we have to add new areas to the area which is now being cultivated, we had to think of ways to provide the water that is needed to reclaim and cultivate the land. And that led us to think about utilizing waste water in the context of programs we have to utilize surface and ground water.

"Preliminary indicators call for consideration of these possibilities, particularly if three matters are taken into account.

"First, the amount of liquid waste is quite large, and that calls for thinking about nonwasteful ways of using this liquid waste, taking into consideration the harsh African experience with the drought which swept countries and adversely altered their economies.

"Second, compared with the waste water produced in industrial countries, the kind of waste water which is produced by the different activities which take place in Egyptian society is still that kind which would allow such usage. Applying the principle of treating the waste water at the source, especially in those industries where toxic wastes which are harmful to the environment are produced, encourages us to study this kind of usage.

"Third, Egypt's lack of lumber resources is a fact. Egypt imports the lumber it needs and pays for it in hard currency. If it is established that water from liquid waste is not suitable for irrigating traditional crops, using this large amount of water to irrigate trees which are grown for lumber would be possible. This could be one kind of low-cost investment whose returns yield numerous benefits. Disposing of liquid waste whose suitability is limited would thus be possible; at the same time lumber

would be provided, and the Egyptian market's lumber needs would be covered. In addition, the hard currency which is spent to import lumber would be saved." [passage omitted]

#### Ten Sources of Pollution

Dr Fatimah al-Juhari goes on to say, "We have been able to list the most important sources of pollution along the Nile, and we identified areas where a concentration of industries has an obvious effect on water quality in the Nile and in the river's irrigation and drainage canals. These areas were as follows:

- "In Aswan, the drainage canal is a significant source of pollution for the Nile River. Human, industrial, and agricultural waste materials are collected at the drainage site.
- "The group of sugar refineries in Kum Umbu, Idfu, Dishna, Qus, and Naj' Hamadi.
- "Two plants in Sawhaj: the Nile Company for Oils and Soap and al-Nasr Company for Dehydrating Onions.
- "The plant of the Financial and Industrial Company in Asyut.
- "The Hulwan area: There are 44 factories in that area, including al-Nasr Company for Manufacturing Coke and Chemicals, al-Nasr Automobile Company, the Iron and Steel Plant, a textile plant, and other plants.
- "Refineries and chemical plants in al-Hawamidiah.
- "Waste materials from the Egyptian Salt and Sodium Company, from the Kafr al-Zayyat Company for Pesticides and Chemicals, from the Financial and Industrial Company, and from the Fertilizer Company are dumped into the Rashid Branch of the Nile at Kafr al-Zayyat.
- "Waste materials from the plant of al-Nasr Company for Fertilizers and Chemical Industries are dumped into the Damietta Branch at Talkha.
- "The industrial area of Shubra al-Khaymah dumps its untreated waste into the main channel of the Nile.
- "The severe inadequacy of efforts to direct proper water usage in factories and the failure to perform routine maintenance for tools and equipment are largely responsible for raising the concentration of pollutants, especially the oils and grease in the waste materials. That is one thing which can be avoided without incurring additional and unmanageable financial burdens."

#### Laws Alone Will Not Do the Job

Dr Fatimah al-Juhari says this about the state's plan to protect the environment from this waste. [passage omitted]

"Law No. 48 of 1982 [as published] protecting the Nile River and waterways from pollution was issued recently. It stipulates that 'No dumping of any liquid waste into the Nile and its tributaries and into irrigation and

drainage canals may be authorized until the characteristics of this waste are compared to the standards mentioned in the executive order for this law.'

"The restrictions set by this law are seen to be a positive step in a proper effort to solve all the problems of the environment which are getting worse. However, many difficulties stand in the way of enforcing this law. On the one hand, large financial appropriations are not available to the various industrial sectors for treatment of their waste materials before disposal. On the other hand, there is a tendency to treat industrial waste separately from sanitary drainage water, and that increases the required cost and makes providing such treatment difficult.

"Besides, Egypt is signatory to international agreements regarding the protection of beaches, seas, and sources of water. It established the Environmental Affairs Agency, which is subordinate to the Council of Ministers, to confront all environmental problems, find solutions for them, and provide the necessary appropriations for these solutions."

Engineer Faruq Bidaywi, an undersecretary of the ministry at the Environmental Affairs Agency, had this to say about the efforts made by the Environmental Affairs Agency:

"On 8 June 1985, the Council of Ministers' Policy Committee approved a grant of 30 million pounds for treatment of the more dangerous waste materials produced by factories. The grant was approved on the basis of a memorandum from the Irrigation Committee. The agency was instrumental in getting Decree No. 1476 for 1986 issued by the prime minister. This decree formed an executive committee to protect the Nile River. People who are interested in this matter from industry, agriculture, irrigation, health, the sanitary drainage facility, the Academy of Scientific Research, and the force which polices bodies of water serve on this committee which identified and listed 188 factories that dump their waste directly into the Nile. The committee requested that closed facilities be set up in each factory where waste materials can be treated before they are disposed of from areas which would be far away from the river. The committee also indicated that 19 factories were dumping waste that was more dangerous than the waste dumped by other factories. In fact, among these 19 factories the amount of waste dumped into the Nile by 6 factories specifically was 241,000 cubic meters a day. That is approximately 7.5 million cubic meters a year.

"Treatment of the waste produced by these factories started in January 1986, a process for which 5.9 million pounds, including 2.2 million pounds in free currency, were appropriated.

"These projects, funded in the 1986-1987 budget, used to be funded in stages until funding was withheld. No concrete progress had been realized during the year because funds which had been set for each stage of these projects were not appropriated."

Engineer Faruq Bidaywi who oversees industrial drainage projects says, "Treatment of industrial waste is an important, economically feasible activity because it benefits the state by preventing pollution and, consequently, reducing the load carried by drinking water treatment plants. In addition, treating industrial waste saves over 3 billion cubic meters of water a year which these factories consume. The treatment process permits the retrieval of economically valuable chemicals and materials which may be recycled. Accordingly, the project could have covered its cost in 4 years after operations started."

Dr Fatimah al-Juhari, chief of the Water Research Unit at the National Research Center, speaks about the economic cost of treating liquid waste.

He says: "The problem of industrial waste water in Egypt is qualitatively and quantitatively different from that in the advanced industrial countries. There are several reasons for that.

- "These include management and operations problems as well as problems resulting from not following ideal methods.
- "More is lost in the stages of manufacturing.
- "The quality of the raw materials used: these materials are misused.
- "Machines used in the factories are dilapidated because their presumed life span has expired.
- "Water that could be recycled is being disposed of, causing more water waste.
- "Under these conditions, therefore, estimates of the economic cost of treating industrial waste would not be economical and the return from such an activity would not have been calculated on a sound, scientific and economic basis. Consequently, any estimate of the economic cost of treating industrial waste would place on industry a burden that is more than it can handle. That is why the first approach to the economic cost of waste treatment should be based on changing the machines which are being used and calculating the economic return which would result from increasing production, developing the stages of manufacturing, reducing the amount of waste lost in every stage, and recycling some waste materials, especially cooling water.

"In addition, the city's public sewage water systems are to be designed or reinforced so as to accommodate industrial waste water which is disposed of in the system, provided the specifications of this industrial waste water are consistent with those of waste materials which may be disposed of into sewage water systems.



"This may require a few industries to conduct an initial or a preliminary purification process of their waste materials. Consequently purification processes for sewage water and industrial waste materials would be carried out in common. This means that in any city, preparations for a general plan for sanitary drainage projects would be based on the fact that these projects are one unit where all human or industrial waste materials would be treated. From an economic standpoint this would be better for the following reasons:

- "The increase in the cost of network systems and their accessories is disproportionate to increases in the quantity of waste that is disposed of, rather than increasing at a declining rate.
- "The same principle applies to pumping stations, discharge lines, and purification stations.
- "If a separate purification process is set up for each factory, it will be difficult to provide trained technicians. In all cases also, operating costs will be high.

"The foregoing makes it clear that the economic cost of treating industrial waste must be estimated city-wide. Before such an estimate is made, studies and research must be carried out by competent research agencies."

#### • What Is the Cost of Waste Treatment?

It is estimated that the amount of liquid waste produced by industry in the year 2000 will be approximately 9.7 billion cubic meters a year; 80 percent of this waste will be cooling water. This means that approximately 2 billion cubic meters would be waste materials and 7.7 billion cubic meters of this waste would be cooling water. It is estimated that the cost of one cubic meter of cooling water [as published] is approximately one piaster.

Accordingly, the annual cost of treating liquid waste in general would be between 1 and 4 billion Egyptian pounds, and annual operating and maintenance costs as well as interest costs would be 150 million pounds. This means that the total cost would be between 1.227 and 4.227 billion pounds.

These costs may be reduced to a minimum by establishing treatment plants that are centrally located in areas where industries are assembled. Costs may also be reduced when the same stations are used to treat sewage water and industrial waste water, and when technology which is easy, simple, uncomplicated, and suitable to the Egyptian environment is chosen. [passage omitted]

#### A Prescription for the Nile River

Before concluding the report [it would be appropriate to ask] about the role that agencies interested in protecting the Nile River are playing to eliminate the phenomenon of dumping untreated, liquid industrial waste into the river and its canals.

Engineer Mukhtar 'Imarah, general manager of the Nile Protection [Office] in greater Cairo says, "Because the Nile River, which is considered a vital waterway for Egypt, is extremely important, the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources is making every effort to keep it clean. That is why five general departments were set up to protect the Nile from Aswan to the mouth of the river in Damietta and in Rashid. These departments enforce Irrigation Law No. 12 of 1984 and Law No. 48 of 1982. All violations and transgressions of this law which are committed against this river between the barrage and al-Maraziq Bridge are being listed and recorded. Because this is an area for tourists, it gets priority. In 3 months the listing process will be completed; reports on violations will be written; and orders to remove all the waste will be issued to all violators. We are being assisted in this matter by the corps which polices the bodies of water so we can do the best job we can.

Major General 'Izz al-Din al-Ahmadi, director of the Environmental Protection Department in the corps which polices bodies of water, adds: "To protect the river, the role played by the corps which polices bodies of water is that of enforcing Law No. 48 regarding protecting the river course and the waterways from pollution. The corps enforces Law No. 12 regarding transgressions against the Nile's bridges and canals. Violators of this law are fined first and then forced to remove the waste. The waste is removed either by the violators themselves or by the corps which polices the waterways and irrigation. Removal costs are charged to violators, and the penalty for polluting the Nile is either payment of a fine between 500 and 2,000 pounds, imprisonment for a term that is between 6 months and 1 year, or both. For repeat offenders the penalty is doubled.

But what do scientists and researchers think about how the Nile River and its tributaries are to be protected from the dangers of pollution? How can the Nile and its tributaries be protected from the liquid waste which is dumped into them?

Scientists agree that it is important to keep the local water habitat clean for future generations. From now on we must rely on basic, scientific regulations whose substance is determined by the standard levels for all organic and inorganic chemical compounds which are allowed in an aquatic habitat. All qualitative requirements for the different usages of water can thus be met. To achieve that we recommend the following:

- Attention should be given to renovation and replacement operations in factories since dilapidated and old equipment cause more than 50 percent of outside pollutants. When equipment is modernized, attention should be given to applying clean technology which is being used in most countries of the world and in some modern factories in Egypt.
- Attention should be given to routine maintenance operations for the machinery and to the cleanliness of the plant floor. Attention should also be given to proper instructions in water usage.



- Cooling water is to be separated from the remaining liquid waste. If the cooling water is not polluted, it may be reused or discharged into a waterway.
- Oil and grease traps should be installed when high concentrations of oil and grease can be found in waste materials.
- Necessary filters should be installed to dispose of large suspended materials, and toxic materials should also be disposed of.
- Periodic monitoring of water quality in the Nile River and in the principal canals and drainage canals is to be regulated; changes resulting from pollution are to be monitored; and reports about the condition of Egyptian water are to be issued periodically. That requires the coordination and integrated efforts of the ministries of health and irrigation, the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, and specialized research centers.
- When estimates that are necessary for the treatment of industrial waste are made, they are to be based on scientific studies in which actual costs are estimated.
- Sanitary sewage water and industrial waste water are to be recycled after the water is purified. This water is to be used for agricultural purposes with the goal of increasing water resources and protecting water sources from pollution.

And yet, before something like that goes into effect, an informed study of pollutants which can be found in the water is required. The most suitable methods of getting rid of these pollutants are to be determined; the kind of soil must be identified; and the appropriate crops are to be selected. Monitoring water quality is to continue while all this is being done so that citizens' health is not exposed to danger and ground water to pollution. This is what is happening now in many areas of the country, such as al-Jabal al-Asfar.

**Columnist Urges Arab  
Noninterference in Palestine**  
*45040019B Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic*  
*16 Sep 88 p 14*

["Fikrah" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] We welcome the proclamation of the State of Palestine and the formation of a government for it. I believe that 17 Arab states are fully prepared to recognize the new government when it is formed.

It does not concern us where the capital of the State of Palestine may be at the present time. Let it be Tunis, or let it be Damascus, or let it be Banghazi. All this is temporary, and the capital will always be Jerusalem.

However much Israel and those behind Israel try, the Arabs and Muslims throughout the world will not renounce their insistence on Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine. Israel has made enormous efforts and spent great sums of money to have the world forget the name of Palestine, but all these attempts have failed. Palestine

has remained alive despite the brutal occupation. The attempts to hide and obscure the facts and the strict censorship have failed, the world still knows that in Palestine there are a people that insists on their right to freedom and life.

We believe the establishment of a Government of Palestine will save the Palestinian cause from the attempts of certain Arab states to dominate it. The only thing that has harmed the cause has been the attempt of certain Arab states to monopolize Palestine and use the Palestinians in their disputes with other states.

I propose that we leave Palestine to the Palestinians as we did in the case of Algeria. We were content to help Algeria by offering it weapons. We did not try to impose a particular policy or a particular plan on Algeria. That is the secret behind the victory of the Algerian revolution. Had the Algerians divided themselves between the Arab states, France would have continued to occupy Algeria to the present day.

It is an irony of fate that certain Arab states attack the Front for the Liberation of Palestine more than they attack Israel. They conspire against it and muster armies so Palestinians may kill Palestinians. If all the Arab states had stood behind Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinians would not have remained scattered in tents until now, Palestinian citizens would not be subjected to the war of extermination to which they are now subjected, and Israel would not dare to treat Palestinian citizens like outcasts.

Our interference in the internal affairs of Palestine has not served Palestine; it has harmed it. It has divided it, rent its unity, and weakened its cause. Let us confess that what the children of Palestine have done in the war of stones has been greater than what all the Arab states together have done over the past 40 years.

Leave Palestine to the people of Palestine!

## JORDAN

### Prominent Figures Speak on King's West Bank Move

**Press Syndicate Head Discusses Passports**  
*44040385 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic*  
*16 Aug 88 p 20*

[Interview with Ridwan Abu'Ayyash, chairman of the syndicate of Palestinian journalists on the West Bank, by unnamed interviewer; in Jerusalem, date not given]

[Text] [Question] What in your opinion were the motives behind the decisions contained in King Husayn's speech in which he announced the breaking of his connection with the West Bank?

[Answer] The Jordanian decision did not come out of a vacuum. It was the result of political and de facto accumulations the region had witnessed. It was an inevitable result of a state of affairs that has lasted more than 21 years.

Separation from the Palestinian identity did not come out of a vacuum. It was done to be in step with reality and the real attitude of the region and to set matters right.

[Question] Do you consider these decisions a tactic or are they strategic?

[Answer] I think they are serious even though they had an overtone of reproof and blame and to some extent placed responsibility on the Palestinian people for Husayn's historical decisions. Palestinian and Arab political desire, which proclaims the necessity of deepening Palestinian national rights and demands the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, confirms the seriousness of these decisions and perhaps even stresses their translation into practice through immediate measures. I believe that our people, who have been under occupation for 21 years, are capable of continuing their course, perhaps with possible Arab assistance, even before their independence and freedom and the establishment of their independent state. However, this does not cancel Jordan's obligation or the gains our people achieved through their special relationship with the Jordanian people. Neither does it absolve Jordan of legal obligations, inasmuch as our occupied land was under Jordanian administration before 1967.

[Question] What are the impacts of these decisions on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories?

[Answer] On the political level, we may say that these decisions will again confirm the importance of the PLO's role as sole legitimate representative. They will finally cancel all [other] options and confirm the correctness of the Palestinian attitude that holds that the only solution is one that comes through a Palestinian partnership. We do not, however, dismiss the need for Arab and international support. The Israeli elections will not favor the Labor Party, which is headed by Shimon Peres, since its wager on a solution and on the Jordanian option have been cancelled by a clear Jordanian decision. On the other hand, the Palestinians now will have freedom to move toward establishing their state without any international excuses that there is someone contesting the PLO's credibility, legitimacy, and sole representation of its people, the Palestinians.

From the legal point of view, cancellation of the Jordanian citizenship of the people of the West Bank means that the PLO must find an immediate alternative either by announcing a government-in-exile to assume its legal responsibilities (naturally, the entire world will recognize it), or through broadening the United Nations' role of

providing legal cover for our people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip so that the United Nations grants passports and trade union licenses.

At the administrative level, our people, with their abilities and resources, can administer vital services through their various Palestinian organizations. The best example of this has been the ability of the intifadah leadership to run the life of our people in the West Bank and Gaza for over 7 months.

[Question] Will the PLO be able to fill the administrative vacuum with all this implies in the way of development plans and economic plans, such as export production and other material obligations?

[Answer] I think the PLO must reorganize this. Given the broad resources it possesses, the matter will not be difficult. More important is the individual Palestinian who believes in the justice of his cause and the necessity of continuing his struggle until the establishment of his independent state. What does the administrative vacuum mean? Aren't our Palestinian people the ones who are administering their own organizations in our occupied land. Aren't they the ones who steer the course of their own everyday life and who export directly to the countries of the European Common Market? Don't the confrontation and fraternal states, including Jordan, have an obligation to deal with them as an independent state which is under occupation? All this can constitute a card in the hand of the PLO for the purpose of building an administrative and economic infrastructure just as it built its political structure. To what extent can this be realized under Israeli occupation? The answer is that we were under occupation before King Husayn's speech and still are after the speech.

[Question] There are many organizations and unions linked organizationally and legally to Jordan such as the lawyers, pharmacists, and doctors syndicates. Doesn't the Jordanian decision mean stripping them of legal cover? What solutions have been proposed in response to this?

[Answer] In the context of what you have mentioned, there are dozens of Palestinian organizations that do not have such cover—for example, the press syndicate, the artists' syndicate, the confederation of authors and writers, and various committees. They play their active role in the fullest way and show that the work is the main thing. While we are talking about legal cover, the United Nations role should expand now and take in everything that might be negatively affected as a result of the withdrawal of the legal carpet. I think this is something the PLO must discuss with the United Nations. These obstacles can be overcome by the organizations working in the [West] Bank. Diplomas, school curricula, etc. can be handled by the Palestinian High Council on Education. The General Confederation of Labor Unions can

carry out its role as usual. The professional syndicates can establish a council for themselves to draw up a strategy for their activity—and so forth.

[Question] A large proportion of agricultural and other products find their way to the Arab countries across the open bridges to Jordan. To what extent do you think the Jordanian decision will affect these sectors?

[Answer] The countries of the European market have announced that they will receive Palestinian agricultural products. I do not believe the coming Palestinian state will fail to establish relations with any economic spheres that aim at marketing Palestinian agricultural products. That is what is happening now. As for the Arab states, I do not think Jordan will prevent Palestinian goods from entering its territory. This was confirmed by the summit decisions. We always need our Arab brothers and their support in carrying out their decisions and in carrying out the national character of the issue. The independent [Palestinian] state will establish close and fraternal economic relations with all the Arab states, especially with fraternal Jordan with whom we are linked by special historical ties. Thus Jordan will have no justification for cutting economic relations with our people in the West Bank. This is what must be discussed in the expected talks between the PLO and Jordan.

[Question] Palestinians in the occupied territories carry Jordanian nationality by law. This enables them to obtain passports with which they can travel to other countries. How will the Palestinians be able to overcome this problem if Jordan is serious about these steps?

[Answer] This is a problem linked to a political solution of the Palestinian issue. Our people certainly expect to carry Palestinian nationality, and this is what the United Nations will be asked to undertake. As a means of solving the problem, international identity cards and international passports might be issued by internationally supervised offices in the occupied territories, or passports might be issued by a Palestinian government-in-exile. These and other possibilities are under discussion in Palestinian circles. I do not think the legal problem will prevent the Palestinian people from continuing their struggle.

#### **Cabinet Member Denies Conspiracy**

44040385 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic  
16 Aug 88 pp 21-22

[Interview with 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordanian minister of the royal palace, by unnamed interviewer, in Amman, date not given]

[Text] 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordanian minister of the royal palace, one of those who participated in crystallizing the Jordanian decision to break the connection between the West Bank and Jordan, thinks the decision will be a factor in accelerating, not retarding, efforts for

a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Abu-'Awdah adds that as long as what was wanted was to achieve the same goals the decision was issued to achieve, the decision could not be avoided. Abu-'Awdah assures West Bank citizens with Jordanian passports that their interests will not be harmed and that these passports will not be withdrawn from them. The passports are voluntary assistance to ease people's daily lives without prejudicing their essence as Palestinian citizens.

AL-MAJALLAH interviewed 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah in his home in a suburb of the Jordanian capital, Amman. This is the text of the interview:

[Question] If the ultimate goal of Jordanian, Arab, and Palestinian efforts is reaching a peaceful settlement, restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and establishing an independent state, do you believe the decision to break the connection between Jordan and the [West] Bank will lead to accelerated achievement of this goal or to its obstruction?

[Answer] Certainly, the decision to break the connection is an achievement for the Palestinian struggle now embodied in the popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The decision is thus a factor to accelerate the achievement of Palestinian national goals, not a factor to retard or obstruct them.

[Question] A general feeling of bitterness and pain arose after the announcement of the decision, especially since the network of relations and interests that accumulated over many years between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples created objective circumstances that made one people of the two peoples. In light of this, one may ask whether the decision to break the connection could have been avoided?

[Answer] As long as what was wanted was to achieve the same goals the decision was issued to achieve—expressing Palestinian national identity and selfhood to arrive at an independent state on Palestinian national soil—this decision could not be avoided. The reason for this is that the Israeli-American game is based on the illusion that Jordan can be an alternative to the Palestinians or a vehicle for their political expression.

Although Jordan clarified its position on this matter in the charter of six principles King Husayn delivered to American Secretary of State George Shultz, stating that Jordan would not represent the Palestinians or be an alternative to them, the American and Israeli positions remained unchanged. They continued to bet on Jordan as an alternative negotiating partner instead of the Palestinians.

[Question] When did the idea of separating the West Bank from Jordan first arise? What were the theoretical bases of this idea?

[Answer] Naturally, the idea was not born yesterday. It was an old one. The circumstances for it began to develop and grow immediately after the 1974 Arab summit in Rabat that proclaimed the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The theoretical basis of the idea of separation was embodied in two problems that confronted the Jordanian decisionmaker:

The first problem was that the spirit of this age expresses the desire of peoples to realize national selfhood. The Palestinian people are one of the peoples that have been deprived of national identity and selfhood. They insist upon and demand these things. This has been given clear and unambiguous expression ever since the beginning of the Palestinian national uprising. It has led to a conviction on the part of the Jordanian decisionmaker that the Palestinian people have the right to express their national selfhood and independent identity, something that was only possible through a decision to break the connection. Unity between one people and another is the special right of a people; when one people confirm that they do not want unity with another people, no one can impose unity upon them. Unity is like marriage; it needs the agreement of two wills. Separation is like divorce; the will of one party is sufficient to effect it.

The second problem was that we in Jordan used to see no relation between breaking the connection and helping the Palestinian people achieve their political and national goals. However, it subsequently became clear to us that there was a Palestinian, Arab, and perhaps even international attitude viewing the breaking of the connection as a factor that would help the Palestinians achieve their goals. It would confront the international powers, especially Israel and the United States, with a people having their own independent identity. It would be possible to negotiate to solve the problem only by speaking to them, not to some other party. We therefore stood with the Arab consensus and the Palestinian desire, and the decision to break the connection was made. We do not think this decision contradicts or harms Arab unity. There is understanding between the Palestinian side and us that the realization of Palestinian national selfhood is not incompatible with Arab unity. This unity, as an ultimate goal, could start as a federation of independent states, as happened in the European community which is now close to announcing complete political unity despite having experienced unparalleled divisions and bloody wars throughout history.

[Question] Some people say a large, mysterious, international political arrangement pushed matters to this point—i.e., the decision to break the connection. They say the results of this arrangement will appear after the coming Israeli and American elections and that they will be favorable to peace in the Middle East. What is your opinion of this?

[Answer] This is a mistake that has arisen from the kind of mentality that always thinks there is some conspiracy behind every step or decision. As regards the decision to

break the connection, it certainly is not part of an international arrangement or mysterious conspiracy. It is a clear decision that was preceded by lengthy preliminaries and broad contacts. Nevertheless, most or all Arab and international parties were surprised. Until the cancellation of the Jordanian development plan for the occupied territories, 2 days before the announcement of the breaking of the connection, no one knew of or expected the issuance of the decision. But as soon as the development plan was cancelled, all the parties realized what was happening since King Husayn sent letters to world leaders, especially the five great powers, the EC, and Japan, reviewing what had happened and urging these countries to present all possible aid to the Palestinian people who were now confronting great responsibilities they need help to bear.

[Question] Will the decision to break the connection affect Jordan's role in regional peace efforts, particularly since this role has always been central, vital, and very important?

[Answer] No, it does not mean that Jordan no longer has a role in the peace process. This role will continue to be fundamental and central. The struggle in the region is not just a Palestinian-Israeli conflict; it is an Arab-Israeli conflict. Also, Jordan has the longest border with the Israeli entity—480 km. While it is true that the Palestinian issue is the heart and essence of the conflict with Israel and that Jordan will continue to offer every kind of possible support to strengthen the Palestinian struggle on all levels, it is also true that the Jordanian role in regional peace efforts is a comprehensive and fundamental role that cannot be abandoned or cancelled.

[Question] Do you think the decision will lead to improved relations between Jordan and the PLO, or will it push these relations backwards? And how so?

[Answer] This decision will certainly lead to complete clarity in relations between the two official parties—I mean the Jordanian Government and the PLO. It will consequently open the door to maximum cooperation between them, especially political cooperation on behalf of the Palestinian issue. I expect this cooperation to be more profitable than it was in previous periods, because it now will be cooperation free of suspicion and competition between Jordan and the PLO over representation of the Palestinian people. This suspicion used to cause constant lack of cooperation between the two sides as a result of suspicions that prevailed for a long period.

[Question] There are fears in Jordanian and Palestinian popular circles relating to particular day-to-day matters and the extent they will be affected by the decision to break the connection. I mean the problems of passports, government offices, conscription, and movement. Are there any formulas for solving such problems touching on the welfare of hundreds of thousands of people on both banks?

[Answer] His highness the king has announced the official Jordanian position on these extremely important issues. The constitutional rights of Jordanians of Palestinian origin residing in Jordan and carrying Jordanian passports will not be prejudiced. They are Jordanian citizens, as long as they remain on Jordanian soil and are subject to the provisions of the Jordanian Constitution and laws. However, if any of them expresses a desire to give up his citizenship and passport, he will have that right.

As regards Palestinians residing in the West Bank and carrying Jordanian passports, their passports do not represent an expression of being Jordanian citizens. They will continue to carry these passports as an aid to them in carrying out their practical day-to-day requirements. This is voluntary assistance that Jordan is providing to the Palestinians. It has no effect on their independent Palestinian citizenship. All problems relating to people's day-to-day lives will be handled in this spirit. The prevailing fears therefore have no basis and no justification.

#### **King Blamed on Timing, Consultation**

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16 Aug 88 pp 22, 23

[Telephone interview with Dean 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, director of the PLO's Amman office, by unnamed interviewer; date not given]

[Text] Dean 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, is rightly considered the real architect of relations between Jordan and the PLO for more than the last 10 years. In addition to being the first real director of the PLO office in the Jordanian capital, he is considered a fundamental figure in all equations between the two sides. He took part in all the delegations and committees formed by the Palestinian side over the past years for consultation and discussion with the Jordanian Government.

Dean al-Yahya is now considered one of the people on the Palestinian side most interested in and informed about the recent Jordanian step. AL-MAJALLAH contacted him by telephone and conducted the following interview:

[Question] In the Central Council bulletin issued a few days ago, you mentioned that you had been surprised by the recent Jordanian step. Given that this issue had been raised long ago, what were the reasons for this surprise?

[Answer] As everyone knows, Jordanian-Palestinian relations of unity rest on a unique peculiarity and emanate from an obvious distinctiveness. This means that any step taken by either of the two parties must be known by the other. This Jordanian step did not come from an official request by the PLO. Rather, it appears to

have come as a result of a situation evaluation proceeding from a comprehensive study by the Jordanian side of the totality of Palestinian-Jordanian relations and of Arab and Palestinian desires.

Given the peculiarity and distinctiveness of the relations and the fact that any measures or steps taken must serve these relations, we expected Jordan, before taking this step, to inform us of it and consult us about it. The surprise was due to the absence of advance consultation and because of the timing of the step.

[Question] But as everyone knows, King Husayn met Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] at the recent Algiers summit. This matter must have been discussed at these meetings.

[Answer] The truth is that this matter was not discussed in the way you are implying. Discussion at the Algiers summit and in the meeting between King Husayn and Abu-'Ammar focused on the subject of a joint delegation and an independent state. The king's announcement was therefore a surprise to the Palestinian leadership both because of the lack of advance consultation and because of the timing of the step.

[Question] Surely during his recent tours to a number of Arab countries King Husayn informed the leaders of these countries about what he intended to do. Did nothing concerning this reach you, so that you might move quickly and send a delegation to Jordan to discuss the issue?

[Answer] We certainly received no advance information from any Arab body. However, I carried a letter from King Husayn to Abu-'Ammar 1 day before the king's speech. The letter contained indications that Jordan intended to take certain steps in the area of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, but without any detail or specification.

[Question] Do you mean that the letter contained nothing about Jordan's intention to break its connection with the West Bank?

[Answer] No, there was absolutely no mention of this problem.

[Question] Jordan has begun implementing the steps derived from the decision it has taken. What move can be expected from the PLO?

[Answer] We are now thoroughly studying this step from all angles and in all its aspects so we can make the right decision and take the right approach. Various committees have therefore been formed. They are continuing their meetings now in a number of places to discuss political, administrative, and legal aspects. In light of the reports these committees present to the leadership, a special meeting will be held to look into Palestinian measures and attitudes following the Jordanian step.

[Question] Will this meeting be held before the recently called for National Council [meeting]?

[Answer] Certainly.

[Question] Do you think there is any possibility that Jordan may retreat from what it has embarked on? Are there any Arab intermediaries so any future dispute between you and the Jordanian Government can be avoided?

[Answer] I cannot answer that question—first, because I have not yet learned of any such Arab move; second, because I think so great a matter requires time to be studied by the fraternal Arab states so they can finally define their stand.

#### **No Withdrawing of Passports**

[Question] If the measures Jordan is now applying go as far as withdrawing the passports of West Bank residents, what will the Palestinian leadership do? Will it ask for passports from the United Nations, or will it issue passports under Arab League supervision?

[Answer] I think that to date there has been no thought of withdrawing the passports of Palestinian citizens on the West Bank. Everyone must understand that this matter cannot take place in the manner that is being discussed and with this speed. A few days ago I met the Jordanian prime minister, Zayd al-Rifa'i. During the private meeting between us, I expressed the desire of the PLO leadership for a Palestinian delegation to make an immediate visit to Jordan, bearing in mind that such a visit was supposed to take place before the recent developments.

[Question] Since there has been an official invitation since this March for Abu-'Ammar to visit Jordan, will one of the delegation's tasks be to arrange this visit?

[Answer] This delegation's visit may have certain results that aid the carrying out of the visit Abu-'Ammar was scheduled to make some time ago but was postponed for many objective reasons. As far as I know, the invitation is still open, and Abu-'Ammar still intends to accept it. However, in light of the Jordanian steps the matter may now require further preparation.

[Question] You mentioned that you recently carried a letter from King Husayn to Abu-'Ammar. Has there been any direct contact between the two during this period other than this letter?

[Answer] No, there has been no direct contact between them during this period.

[Question] What is the fate of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee that was formed to administer the support and steadfastness money? Does the Jordanian step mean that this committee has been automatically dissolved?

[Answer] I have not been informed of anything of the sort.

[Question] What will be the fate of the money? What body will dispense it?

[Answer] I said I have not been informed of the disbanding of this committee, which means that it still exists. I understand personally that this committee will continue to exist.

#### **Government-in-Exile**

[Question] Will a provisional government or a government-in-exile be on the agenda of the next National Council [meeting]?

[Answer] This subject requires lengthy study, but I will try to give an idea of the matter that may help clarify what is happening now. One may say that the Jordanian step to break the administrative and legal connection with the West Bank placed the entire Palestinian issue at the beginning of a new stage—one of extreme importance and sensitivity—because it created a new political reality. The step therefore requires new methods and concepts for dealing with it, especially since it comes at a time when the Palestinian popular uprising has taken root. The Jordanian step has paved the way for a return of Palestinian national sovereignty on Palestinian soil now that the intifadah has led to the crystallization of the Palestinian national legal personality for it. According to international law, as everyone knows, occupation does not do away with national sovereignty; it merely impedes it or restricts its exercise without its transference to the occupying country. On this basis, the PLO is now involved, through the committees to which I referred, in preparing studies on the situation ensuing from the Jordanian step. Based on the results these special committees reach, the National Council, a meeting of which has been called for in the near future, will approve the required step.

[Question] What you are saying is that quick consideration of the subject of a provisional government is now required.

[Answer] That is correct. But I would state that this subject is not as easy as some people imagine. It requires thorough legal and administrative studies because it is extremely complex and deals with existing facts and exceptional conditions, the likes of which have never occurred in history.

[Question] The PLO has for a long time been proposing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state preceded by a provisional government or a government-in-exile. The Palestinian people therefore find it strange that despite the passage of so much time their leaders do not have a comprehensive concept about this sensitive matter.

[Answer] There is a comprehensive concept, and there are studies about these subjects but, as everyone knows, every case has its own methods. Now there is a new case that requires consideration and the preparation of studies concerning it in order to connect it with the studies we have. I am not saying that the Jordanian step created a vacuum; however, it did create a new situation with a definite character. Thus, what is required is the taking of steps balanced with it and closely linked to it. Otherwise, confusing mistakes could be made.

[Question] There are some who say the Jordanian step means that King Husayn is the first Arab leader who recognizes the independent Palestinian state. Can we say that this state has actually been born now?

[Answer] I repeat again what I said previously—that a Palestinian national legal personality has crystallized on the land through the intifadah. This means that the Palestinian people, through their current revolution, have created a new reality that accords with the facts of international law. The fundamental precondition for the emergence of a legal personality is rejection of occupation by a practical measure on the land. I think there is no measure on the land more impressive or stronger than the one being undertaking by the intifadah.

Since this means that the legal personality of the Palestinian people has crystallized on the land, the Jordanian step has come as a complementary element and opens the way for a return of Palestinian sovereignty.

[Question] Does this mean that you evaluate King Husayn's step as positive?

[Answer] The truth is that the decisions of the Palestinian Central Council have pointed toward this reality. But, of course, one must point out my previous observation about the timing element and the lack of consultation.

[Question] The question now being raised is whether political moves connected with the Palestinian issue and the Middle East crisis will be governed between the PLO and Jordan by the same relations applicable to other Arab states, or whether there will be special exceptions.

[Answer] The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship will remain special and distinguished. It will find its extension in a way different from the state of affairs that governs the relation of any Arab state with any other state.

**East-Bank Statistical Report for 1987 Published**  
44040070 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic  
27 Sep 88 p 2

[Text] The yearly statistical report for 1987, published by the Department of General Statistics, reported that the estimated population in the East-Bank of the kingdom amounted to 2,896,800 persons. Of this number, 1,515,340 were male and 1,381,460 were female. The

population was distributed among the districts in the kingdom's East-Bank as follows: 1,203,000 persons in the Amman District comprising 41.5 percent of the total population, 419,100 persons in al-Zarqa' District comprising 14.5 percent of the total population, 704,100 persons in the Irbid District comprising 24.3 percent of the total population, 101,970 persons in al-Mafraq District comprising 3.5 percent of the total population, 200,590 persons in al-Balqa' District comprising 6.9 percent of the total population, 124,220 persons in al-Karak District comprising 4.3 percent of the total population, 42,820 persons in al-Tafilah District comprising 1.5 percent of the total population, 101,000 persons in the Ma'an District comprising 3.5 percent of the total population. These assessments for 1987 were based on an average yearly growth estimated to be 3.6 percent from 1986. The population distribution was estimated to be 70 percent urban and 30 percent rural. The number of persons under the age of 15, below the working age, numbered 1,393,300 and comprised 48.1 percent of the total population. The number of persons under the age of 25 comprised 69.3 percent of the total population. The number of person 60 years of age or older numbered 118,600 and comprised 4.1 percent of the population.

#### **Aqabah Port Activity Increases During First Half of Year**

44040015A Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic  
6 Sep 88 p 16

[Text] During the first 5 months of this year, 1,079 ships called at the port of Aqabah compared with 1,042 during the same period of last year.

Official statistics showed a total of 149,580 passengers arriving through the port during the first 5 months of this year, with 61,905 passengers departing through the port during the same period.

A total of 7,803,400 tons of merchandise were exported or imported through the port during the first 5 months of this year.

Details show that 3,795,200 tons of goods were exported during the first 5 months of this year through the port of Aqabah, while 4,008,000 tons of goods arrived through the port during the same period.

The figures indicate that 216 ships anchored in the harbor in May compared with 219 in April. And 18,662 passengers arrived during May against 25,690 during April.

There were 15,602 departing passengers during May compared with 15,464 departures from the port during April.

A total of 1,756,600 tons of goods were imported or exported through the port during the month of May compared with 1,782,800 tons during April.

Total exports during May were 821,700 tons compared with 857,900 tons exported during April.

There were 462,200 tons of phosphates exported through the port during compared with 348,700 tons exported during April.

Also, 24,200 tons of fertilizers were exported during May compared with 31,600 tons in April. As for potash, 67,100 tons of it were exported through the port during May, compared with 145,900 tons during April.

Other national exports amounted to 3,100 tons in May compared with 3,700 in April. The volume of goods re-exported through the port during May was 1,300 tons, the same volume as was realized in April.

The volume of other exports and transit goods during May was 263,800 tons compared with 326,700 tons in April.

#### **55 Million Dinars Invested in Al-Zarqa' Region** *44040015B Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Sep 88 p 8*

[Article by Nash'at al-Majali: "55,891,000 Dinars Expended on Investments for Al-Zarqa' Governorate During Recently Concluded Period of the 5-Year Plan"]

[Text] The current 5-year plan's recently concluded period included the expenditure of 55,891,000 dinars for al-Zarqa' governorate.

Mr 'Id al-Qatarinah, governor of al-Zarqa' and head of the governorate's Development Council, said that the plan aims generally at raising the standard of living of residents in the region and at achieving a geographic balance in the distribution of development gains among all development areas and regions, according to available possibilities and resources.

In an interview with the Jordanian news agency, he added that during the first half of its 5 years the plan defined the directions of the governorate's regional plan in light of required needs. It concentrated on the industrial sector as a pioneer economic sector by developing industrial installations, establishing mining industries based on available resources, and developing the agricultural sector. This was done by horizontal and vertical expansion; expanding the cooperative movement; developing grazing lands and protected areas in the eastern areas; developing and improving road networks to facilitate the movement of traffic and the exchange of goods between population concentrations within the governorate on the one hand, and between them and other governorates, on the other hand; universalizing and improving social services; expanding and developing the basic structure of housing services; controlling and distributing surface and underground water; enhancing and improving the education process; and continuing the implementation of the service and production projects of local councils.

#### **Value of Investments**

He indicated that 20,405,000 dinars had actually been invested in the social and service sectors, 32,178,000 in infrastructure sectors, and 3,308,000 in commodity production sectors.

He said the most important goals of the social and service sectors were universalizing, improving, and developing various services. He explained that the most prominent investments in these sectors had been in the education sector (7,685,000 dinars), the housing sector (7,478,000), and the municipal and village affairs sector (3,232,000).

He added that one of the most prominent goals of the work and labor sector was expanding the scope of vocational training and providing work opportunities for residents. A driver's training center has been completed in the al-Hashimiyah Training Center at a cost of 425,000 dinars. A precision tool workshop, two construction workshops, and two other carpentry workshops had been completed at the al-Hashimiyah and Yajuz centers at a cost of 300,000 dinars.

#### **Most Important Projects**

He said the most important projects that had been implemented within the social development sector were the girls' vocational training center in al-Rusayfah (11,000 dinars), completion of the Hope Center for the Deaf at Yajuz, a residence for the director of the Usamah ibn Zayd Juvenile Center, and leveling the center's playing field (8,000 dinars).

He said work had begun on implementing the project for a nursing and midwifery college in Yajuz (1,700,000 dinars). In addition, a number of comprehensive and primary health care centers had been opened in al-Rusayfah, al-Sukhnah, and al-Zarqa'. He indicated that the unavailability of suitable land was considered the basic problem in building health care centers.

In his interview, he pointed to the education sector, saying the projects for this sector proposed in the plan had been implemented—for example, the project for school buildings for compulsory education (2,419,000 dinars), and the project for secondary school buildings and classroom additions (5,226,000 dinars). He explained that 13 compulsory schools, 3 vocational schools, 2 central schools, 14 secondary schools, and 4 other schools had been built in various parts of the governorate.

#### **Higher Education and Religious Trusts**

Regarding the education and religious trusts sectors, he said the community college library project (10,000 dinars) and the Qurtubah College building project (250,000 dinars) had been completed, while a number of projects in the religious trusts sector had begun to be



implemented at a cost of 666,000 dinars. This was higher than the planned expenditure. The most important of these projects were the Islamic Orphans' Vocational Home and projects for mosques. He indicated that the most important projects that had been implemented included the building of 15 mosques.

**Precautions Against Locust Invasion Taken**  
*44040062 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic*  
*19 Oct 88 p 16*

[Text] Following a meeting which he headed yesterday at the Ministry of Agriculture and which was attended by a number of the kingdom's agricultural directors, Minister of Agriculture Marwan al-Hammud said that the Ministry was in constant contact with the authorities in the Jordanian Armed Forces, specifically the Air Force and the Bedouin border guard, about taking the necessary precautions against Jordan's possible infestation with swarms of locusts. He added that the battle against the locust swarms in Saudi Arabia was going well and that he hopes they will be eradicated there within the next few days.

The minister stressed to the agricultural directors the necessity of their holding educational meetings with the farmers in the provinces to give them an idea of ways to fight the locusts and training them in these techniques. At the end of the meeting the following investigative committees on the battle were formed: two committees in al-Zarqa' region, three committees in al-Karak region, and two committees in al-Tafilah and al-'Aqabah regions. Each committee was divided into a regional commissioner, an overseer of committee activities, an assistant, a technician, a driver, a vehicle equipped for spraying anti-locust pesticide, a tractor, and a water tank containing pesticide to spray the farms and eradicate the locusts.

On another front, Mr 'Id al-Qatarinah, the mayor of al-Zarqa', called on the authorities in the province yesterday, especially those in the eastern region, to observe the movement of the locusts in the areas near al-Zarqa' and al-'Umari, to be completely prepared for any contingency, and to inform those concerned of this extremely rapid movement. This call came as part of a general directive to the officials in charge of al-'Amri border, al-Zarqa' agriculture, al-Azraq district, as well as the chief of police of al-Azraq.

## LIBYA

**Workers Assume Control of 72 Factories**  
*45040001 Tripoli AL-FAJR AL-JADID in Arabic*  
*5 Aug 88 p 4*

[Text] The People's General Committee for Industry issued a decree transferring ownership of 72 factories in the various municipalities of the Great al-Jamahiriyyah to workers in those factories.

Committees were also formed in the various municipalities to implement that decree and turn over these factories to the workers who work in them. The factories which have been acquired by their workers are:

- Al-Fajr al-Jadid Factory, Benghazi, the General Company for Furniture.
- The Mattress Manufacturing Unit, Benghazi, the General Company for Furniture.
- The Trailer Factory, Benghazi, al-Sahil Industrial Company.
- The al-Ruwaysat National Costume and Clothing Factory, Benghazi, the General Company for Textiles.
- The Juice Factory in al-Fuwayhat, Benghazi, the General Company for Beverages.
- The Bride of the South Clothing Factory, Benghazi, the General Company for Textiles.
- Al-Tahi Shortening Factory, Benghazi, the General Dairy Company.
- Coat Production Unit, Benghazi, the General Textile Company.
- Suit and Trousers Production Unit, Benghazi, the General Company for Textiles.
- Al-Kuwayfiah Pasteurization Unit, the General Dairy Company.
- Al-Hawari Pasteurization Unit, Benghazi, the General Dairy Company.
- Al-Maqrif Unit for Doors and Windows, Benghazi, the Public Company for Aluminum and Lead.
- The Soap and Potassium Factory, Benghazi, the General Soap Company.
- The Tire Recapping Factory, Benghazi, Aman Tire Company.
- The Barbed Wire Factory, Benghazi, the Metal Works Company.
- The Sheet Metal Factory, Benghazi, the Metal Works Company.
- The Metal Fibers Factory, Benghazi, the Metal Works Company.
- General Smithing Workshop, Benghazi, the Metal Works Company.
- Hanger Manufacturing Workshop, Benghazi, the Metal Works Company.
- Girl of the South Clothing Factory, Sabha, the National Clothing Company.
- The Plastics Factory, Benghazi, al-Sahil Industrial Company.
- Spaghetti Factory Number 1, Benghazi, the National Milling Company.
- Spaghetti Factory Number 2, Benghazi, the National Milling Company.
- The Ajdabiya Clothing Factory, Sidra Bay Municipality, the municipality's people's committee.
- The Misratah Tile Factory, Sidra Bay Municipality, the General Company for Tiles and Construction Materials.
- The Tire Recapping Factory, Sidra Bay Municipality, the Aman Company for Tires and cushions
- Production Unit for Doors and Windows, Sidra Bay, the National Company for Manufacturing Aluminum.

- Household Utensils Production Unit, Sidra Bay, the National Company for Manufacturing Aluminum and Lead.
- Tile Factory Number 1, Tripoli, the General Company for Tiles and Construction Materials.
- Tile Factory Number 2, Tripoli, the General Company for Tiles and Construction Materials.
- Tile Factory Number 3, Tripoli, the General Company for Tiles and Construction Materials.
- Marble Cutting Factory Number 7, Tripoli, the General Company for Tiles and Construction Materials.
- Tile Factory Number 8, Tripoli, the General Company for Tiles and Construction Materials.
- Cement Bricks Factory Number 10, Tripoli, the General Company for Tiles and Construction Materials.
- Tile Factory Number 12, Tripoli, the General Company for Tiles and Construction Materials.
- Small containers and Cast Iron Factory, Tripoli, Al-Ma'murah Food Industries Company.
- Sidi al-Misri Factory, Tripoli, Al-Ma'murah Food Industries Company.
- Al-Falah Factory, Tripoli, Al-Ma'murah Food Industries Company.
- Jafarah Factory, Tripoli, Al-Ma'murah Food Industries Company.
- Al-Sa'adah Ice Cream Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Milk and Dairy Products.
- Tajura' Ice Cream Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Milk and Dairy Products.
- The 7 April Feed Factory, Tripoli, the General Milling Company.
- Al-Sham'idan Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Baking and Baked Goods.
- The Cookie Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Baking and Baked Goods.
- Al-Zahra' Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Baking and Baked Goods.
- Al-Samakah Paint Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Manufacturing Paint.
- Factory Number 1 for Manufacturing Doors, Tripoli, the General Company for Manufacturing Paint.
- Factory Number 2 for Manufacturing Doors, Tripoli, the General Company for Manufacturing Paint.
- Factory Number 3 for Manufacturing Doors, Tripoli, the General Company for Manufacturing Paint.
- Factory Number 4 for Manufacturing Doors, Tripoli, the General Company for Manufacturing Paint.
- Factory Number 13 for Manufacturing Doors, Tripoli, the General Company for Manufacturing Paint.
- Factory Number 5 for Manufacturing Doors, Tripoli, the General Company for Manufacturing Paint.
- Al-Nur Notebook Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Paper and Paper Products.
- The Sensitive Paper Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Paper and Paper Products.
- The Wrapping Paper Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Paper and Paper Products.
- Al-Farashat Bedding Factory, Tripoli, the General Furniture Company.
- Trailer Factory Number 1, Tripoli, the National Development Company.

- Trailer Factory Number 3, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Field Cars Factory Number 2, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Factory Number 14 for Nails and Metal Fibers, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Factory Number 5 for Tanks and Agricultural Plows, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Factory Number 6 for School Furniture, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Factory Number 7 for Rivets, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Factory Number 8 for Pumice Stone, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Factory Number 9 for Trailer Tanks, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Factory Number 10 for Wire Mesh, Tripoli, the National Development Company.
- Wax and Chalk Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Plastics and Sponges.
- Welding Wires Factory, Tripoli, the General Gases Company.
- Industrial Gases Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Medical and Industrial Gases.
- 'Aqabah Shoe Factory, Tripoli, the General Company for Leather Industries.
- Darnah Beverage Factory, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, the General Company for Beverages.
- Kawthar and Maradah Factory, Darnah, the General Company for Beverages.

**Mathabah Member Warns of  
False Religious Teachings**

*45040243b Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic  
15 Aug 88 p 7*

[Article by Maylud 'Abdallah al-Huti: "A Course of Study: Cut Out the Nonsense; Islam Is a Religion of Progress"]

[Text] There is an opinion which states that a cultural, intellectual crisis in the Arab homeland has taken hold. Another one states that the Arab mind is either paralyzed or was assassinated some time ago.

Thus, suggestions and prescriptions for this question are numerous, but they all revolve in one orbit and affirm one opinion, that a constant dichotomy can be found in the climate of the cultural crisis. It is only in terms of this dichotomy that everyone sees himself or is aware of himself. It prevails over people's consciousness, conduct, and practice. There is a dichotomy of the modern and the old; of those who would follow the canonical laws of Islam and those who would enact new laws; and of the traditional and the contemporary. The real predicament here is that the crisis of the Arab mind is not that of the elite or of the leaders as much as it is a crisis of the people.

Such intellectual obfuscation recognizes neither the logic of reason nor dialogue. Proponents of this dichotomy have been blindfolded by intellectual fanaticism. Having strayed away from religion, they became engaged in casuistic reasoning and discussions, prohibiting what they want to prohibit and declaring permissible whatever they wish.

Their backward ideas oppose technological and cultural progress. They are incapable of debate and literary creativity because they are like donkeys carrying scriptures. That is why they rely on importing their ideas from beyond our borders. They derive their principles from fanatic and idolatrous ideas.

We are not being redundant, nor are we digressing from our discussion which stems from a conviction in a popular culture that calls for thought and creativity and the correction of many of the Islamic notions we inherited. It calls for a response to the nonsensical stories and falsehoods which some of us have been importing from abroad in the form of religious orders, movements, and rotten, worn out fantasies which are unsuitable as values and principles for Arab, Islamic society.

Such unsuitable values and principles are responsible for the condition we are in now. These values and principles cannot reform society, cannot guide its steps, cannot correct its conduct, and cannot trigger in it cultural values, principles, and ideals. They will, however, lead to a horrifying stacking of relations in a backward society; and they will lead to a frail social makeup which will ruin the morals we were brought up on from our earliest days according to our true religion. These alien movements and religious orders are nothing more than forms of dangerous phenomena which are void of logic and of every progressive spirit. They have nothing to do with our Islamic culture and civilization. Although they will lead to change in society's makeup, they will inevitably lead us into a situation that is worse and more backward than what we have now. The laws of a Jamahiriyyah society, which manifest themselves in religion or custom, are constant and fixed. Such laws are good for all places and all times. That is why one may not deviate from them, because deviating from such laws destroys social values, ideals, and morals. After all, these are the punishments prescribed by God: Anyone who transgresses shall be punished, and his lot in life shall be miserable.

Because the Holy Koran has been preserved and is immune to falsifications and distortions, no suggestions may be added to its verses. By the time the revelations stopped God had completed His blessings on mankind. The religion was completed when the final verses of the Koran were revealed to the prophet. If these prevarications had anything to do with our religion, they would have been revealed and set forth in the provisions of the Holy Koran which is unmatched by any book. If God wants something to happen, it does. He is the One Who makes things happen. Why then do we need a mufti offering cheap, independent opinions to the highest

bidder in return for something from those whose interests are served by the spread of denominations, Shi'ism, and partisanship. What is permissible is obvious, and what is forbidden is obvious. Anyone who wants to do good deeds does them for himself, but he who wants darkness and evil works against himself. Man's dignity is demeaned when one of these dervish shaykhs comes out with an independent opinion saying that this person or another must be killed for a reason that probably does not deserve such a punishment. How can his eminence the dervish explain this great matter which induced him to hold a meeting and come out with this important piece of news when he did not bother to read the Koran and accept its justice? It's as though he has not yet understood that God forbade killing anyone except for a just cause. What ignorance and fanaticism we have here! They want to bring life to a standstill, and they want to block the road to the truth with darkness and tattered lies.

A few traditionalists are even telling people that to become a well-rounded Muslim and a member of the inner circle, each man must grow a long beard. They say, "Your trousers must be cut like those of the Jews so that God may be pleased with us and so that we can get rid of the impurity of the earth on which we walk. We want to be in the victorious party of God. If you are not of that party, you will become impure losers." They say, "We must place one hand over our heart when we pray. If we do not, our prayer is null and void, and it is rejected."

What strange and extraordinary contradictions are these! Do we stop being believers and become atheists if we do not do everything these traditionalists whimsically think is appropriate? Not even the prophet—may God bless him and grant him salvation—said that we had to do anything. Nor did he require us to do everything he did or else languish in the fires of Hell. Our messenger says, "Religion is easy," but they make it difficult. Our messenger tells us to act in accordance with what God Almighty has said, but they tell us to act in accordance with what the devil—may God damn him—has said. Who are these people who would force others to do what they want and please? Are they new prophets? Is this a revelation that is being revealed unbeknownst to us? Should we not be made aware of their arrival so we can make preparations to receive them just as the wolf receives an innocent lamb?

What is this time that we are living in now? What is this time in which facts are being turned upside down? Where do we go to look for the missing truth which has now been turned inside out because of distortion? Is there any exploitation greater than that to which we are being subjected by turbaned and bearded men? Is there any meanness greater than that which is spreading in our midst unchecked by conscience and undeterred by morals?

Oh Islam! What happened to Islam and its laws? What did the bearded men wearing cut-off trousers do to the

Holy Koran and its provisions as they looked right and left for independent opinions [justifying] all their shortcomings?

These men are looking for any attributed tradition. They want their presence to become an important factor in strengthening attitudes of indifference, deceit, and passive apathy. They want to destroy the Jamahiriyyah's Islamic revolution which calls for manifestations of advancement and nobility to be adopted. The Islamic revolution wants innovative energies for progress and civilization to be ignited. But these men are trying to plant all these prevarications so that our religion will be linked with backwardness and reactionaries. They do that to protect their interests and the interests of their masters who call for the destruction of the Arab nation and the subjugation of Arab citizens who can then accept such falsehoods and remain imprisoned by them—prisoners of their own seclusion and classical mentality.

These men are trying to come up with regional, isolationist ideas within the Arab nation, and those dervishes and lethargic shaykhs are the henchmen who are being used to spread such ideas. They are trying to instill a culture of submission and dispossession, so they link Islam with fatalism. They distort the Koran with their interpretations which contradict all the principles of reason and logic. In their books they attribute to the prophet traditions which are not his. These traditions, which have nothing to do with logic and reason and which no sane person can believe, accept, or even discuss call for a passive apathy. Our true Islamic religion calls upon us to learn and become aware of the affairs of our religion and our world. It warns us against indifference and obliges us to reject all idolatrous ideas which call for reliance on illogical supernaturalism. The first verses of the Holy Koran confirm that by calling upon us to learn and become educated. If we were to analyze this matter scientifically, how could we be taken in by such a statement? How could we believe that these traditions are attributed to the messenger? How could we accept the notion that we must believe them, act accordingly, and consider them one of the main articles of faith? How could we accept the notion that we must not discuss, respond to, or even debate them because that would manifest our lack of faith and our atheism? God forbid!

And yet, this is an issue that affects our lives and our world and the future of all people. Is Islam still a vital force? Not only was Islam a vital force in the past, but it remains a vital force every time it can contribute to the creation of a radiant future.

To comprehend this fact we must not turn Islam into an incomprehensible, rigid, and inflexible faith because that would conceal from us the spirit and essence of Islam which is a progressive revolution against all distorted superstitions. As we said earlier, we should not follow such superstitions because there are verses in the Holy Koran which benefit man and help him manage the affairs

of his life. The Koran shows man how he can free himself from his chains, and it shows him the road to final deliverance from the tools of tyranny and exploitation.

No religion attached to knowledge and reason the importance Islam attached to them. Knowledge is the ladder which helps man achieve the free intellectual faith which has nothing to do with those traditional influences which trivialized man's cause. It is up to us to discover the philosophy of integrating Islam, the working religion, with Islam, the spiritual sustenance which satisfies the soul that longs for rest.

It is not enough for us to move from one cause to another and from one condition to another. We must instead move from objectives forward: from primary objectives and goals to higher and nobler objectives and goals. We must continue climbing until we get to the point where we realize that there is no end to progress. Such an awareness would ignite in man a higher awareness of his numerous connections and relations with God and the universe.

These noble humanitarian facts are motivated by an earnest concern for man's freedom and humanity; by a love for life; and by a feeling that begrudges the theft of this freedom by money mongers, power mongers, and the proponents of oppression and terror. We do not want the beauty of man's freedom to be distorted by sick fanaticism, by an insane narrowmindedness, and by a posture of seclusion that is suicidal and resentful. It would be enough to have a wave breaking here and a storm breaking there to induce us to think and call for the reformulation and correction of history. We may agree, and we may disagree, but dialogue remains the more feasible and more worthwhile approach because it is the only manifestation of man's humanity which is far removed from intellectual fanaticism. Dialogue will lead us into building an educated society which has what it takes to be creative and innovative.

That is why we called for a series of debates in the hope that we might reach a solution which would realize what is correct and achieve more victories against all the tools of dispossession, tyranny, and exploitation. We want to build a better society in which all guarantees are provided for all individuals. We hope to find the lost paradise, and we hope to build the virtuous city.

The conversation is to be continued.

Maylud 'Abdallah al-Huti, Mathabah, the Revolutionary Committee, members of the mother Mathabah Organization Al-Salawi, the First Statement, Benghazi

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### Writer Criticizes Education System Administration

45040243a Tripoli AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR in Arabic  
8 Aug 88 p 7

[Article by Khalil Muhammad Khalifah: "A Point of View: Who Is Responsible?"]

[Text] We have a question for the secretary of the People's General Committee for Education and Scientific Research. The question has to do with the results of the final examinations for the 1988 secondary school certificate which exceeded the expectations of educational experts and computers.

We ask, "Was this result expected or unexpected?"

If the answer is, "Yes, this result was expected," do we assume that the People's General Committee for Education and Scientific Research made serious efforts and attempts to correct this expected result? Did it study its causes, and did it find a solution? I think not.

Was the result then unexpected and left by the committee to chance? That happens when there are no qualified administrators specializing in areas of education, such as sociology and psychology. Every now and then such administrators would conduct studies on the progress of education, propose scientific solutions, deal with each phenomenon separately or deal with them collectively, and so on.

Scientists can predict earthquakes before they happen. They can also predict floods and other natural phenomena by using measuring and tracking devices. Economists can also make predictions about the state of the economy for the coming years. They make those predictions on the basis of stated and known facts and indicators. Let me ask the secretary: "Do you have such studies and predictions, [and have you reached such] conclusions, and solutions?"

Whether the answer is yes or no, it is the People's General Committee for Education that is entirely responsible, and People's Congresses have the right to question this committee to find out why the result was 11 percent.

What is the cause? Is it the curriculum, the teacher, the school administration? Is it delaying the start of the academic year? Is it the home? Is it Libya's television which broadcasts for many hours late into the night and keeps students from studying? And what if we were to

add to all that the large number of people in Libyan families whose homes lack the comfortable surroundings which could be conducive to studying?

In addition, there are other causes. There is the previous system of promoting students; administrative negligence: teachers who do not go to school, advisers who show no interest in carrying out their mission; and there is the matter of the advisers' authorities and the extent to which the people's committees in the municipalities are committed to them. Their decisions are like those of the Arab League and the United Nations. Thus, it is not possible to make a scientific statement stating that this problem developed today, this year, or several years earlier. This is a continuing, cumulative, dynamic situation. Education is a complete sector, and each one of its parts affects the other. Every brick in that structure is built on another. The parts of education are like links in a chain; they are not separate. But where does the problem lie and where is the solution to it? Does it lie in the past, in the future, or in both?

To answer this question, we must take a quick, general look at the stages of education in the Jamahiriyah. These can be divided into three:

1. The first stage, which occurred under the past administration, was characterized by a high rate of illiteracy and a limited number of schools and institutions. In addition, the knowledge and the subjects which were taught justified the domination of colonialism. They justified slavery and submission to exploitation and tyranny, promoted liberalism, and embodied reactionary values.

2. The postrevolutionary stage was the stage for horizontal and vertical expansion in education. A school was built between every two schools during that stage in which education surged. The curricula, however, did not express the revolution's method and philosophy. During that stage, the goal of education was to create cadres in the various fields to lead the stage of revolutionary change.

3. The third stage was that of building a new system of education in which schools, institutions, and colleges would be turned from mere places for learning and teaching to become educational institutions that would lead change and development. These institutions would concentrate on research and practical and scientific studies. This stage is still being tested and applied.

Thus, we find that several factors, acting separately and collectively, did play and are still playing a role in the educational process.

I hold some Arab teachers responsible for the failure of education. Let me say that there are teachers who give private lessons and teachers who have forged certificates. Contracts for those teachers and other contracts as well were signed on the island of Malta and in Greece by

friends. They were signed with the knowledge of the people's committees in the municipalities and with the knowledge of the People's General Committee for Education and Scientific Research.

The administration is the principal factor in the success of the educational process. I am bringing up this subject in front of the secretary of the committee as he discusses the matter of administrative negligence in the meeting of the People's General Committee for Education and Scientific Research. Did the committee take any measures against administrative negligence? Did it issue any controls, directives, or penalties for administrative negligence in educational institutions? Is that not its immediate responsibility? Without proper management a factory will fail, and without proper management a farm and other establishments will also fail.

A few specialist police departments publish statistics about the number of criminals. They also apprehend and track those criminals. But it is sociologists and psychologists who deal with the treatment of crime: they study its causes and find solutions for it. Did the secretary play the part of a publisher, an analyst, or a therapist? That is the question for which we want an answer.

## OMAN

### Oil Company Training Program Aids Youth Employment

44040025a Muscat AL-WATAN in Arabic  
20 Aug 88 p 1

[Article by 'Abd al-Sattar Khulayf]

[Text] The number of Omanis receiving training at the Oman Oil Development Company in the next 5 years is expected to double. This will be coupled with increasing the annual training budget from its present 7.7 million Omani rials in 1988 to 11.5 million Omani rials in 1991.

The Company's training program is the biggest of its kind in the Sultanate in the field of training, in that the number of trainees in the company in 1993 will increase to between 1,250 and 1,400. This will increase the number of qualified graduate trainees in the company to between 250 and 275 annually.

The group of trainees include all levels of employees, in addition to those with a secondary school diploma who are on leave from their studies, who the company recruits under training agreements that enable them to continue their studies, and provides with an employment opportunity with the company after completing their studies.

The Oman Oil Development Company training program is designed to meet all expected training needs and those that might arise in the future.

It is worth noting that the 676 trainees whose names are on the company's records up to June of this year include 83 senior company employees. Of these 21 have gone on training courses abroad, 51 received on-the-job training, 5 had on-the-job training in companies abroad, and 6 received training in the company's training center in al-Fahl port.

With regard to junior employees, 133 students have been sent on educational courses abroad, while 33 other students have undergone training at the training center at the company's headquarters and 43 trainees are being given on-the-job training in the company.

The training agreement project includes 237 who are on leave from school, of whom 33 have been sent to study abroad, 90 have joined the training center, and 114 are doing on-the-job training at the company.

This is in addition to 147 students selected by the government to study at the university this year.

In 1972 the number of Omani trainees in the company who studied in the Sultanate and abroad totaled 220. This number gradually increased in the following years until it reached 670 early this year.

The company's training center officials are responsible for finding places for training 40 to 50 government students and for supervising their training during the summer vacation. This, of course, is an additional burden to the many burdens shouldered by the training center. These students are sponsored by a number of ministries, the Oman Technical and Industrial College, and the vocational training centers. Sultan Qabus University is expected to play a major role in this field in the future.

### Five-Year Plan for Road Projects Revealed

44040025b Muscat AL-WATAN in Arabic  
11 Aug 88 p 4

[Article by 'Abd-al-Sattar Khulayf]

[Text] The total cost of projects under way and new projects in the Ministry of Communication's third 5-year plan for the roads sector has come to 97.596 billion Omani riyals.

The plan's main feature is the concentration on paving most of the provinces' internal roads which, when completed, would serve numerous citizens. It will also link the provinces together, which would enable trade to flourish and building, economic, and social development to advance.

This would also serve the larger communities in the citizens' interest. The project will provide internal roads and link many provinces together, as well as link every province with the towns and villages that come under it

and also link the towns with the commercial and industrial centers with the aim of developing economic, social, and health activities. This would also link educational, health, and social centers so as to facilitate services for the citizens. The plan also takes into consideration the increasing traffic on all roads, which makes road maintenance of increasing importance.

Some of the roads provided for in the 1986-90 plan have been completed, and work is still being carried out on others. Further roads are yet to be built. Shortly work will begin on building the internal roads in al-Batinah, al-Masna'ah, al-Suwayq, al-Sahm, and al-Khaburah, and the al-Rustaq internal roads. This is in addition to the resurfacing of roads in the al-Batinah district, Oman Proper, al-Zahirah, and al-Sharqiyah.

Among the projects under way in the second 5-year plan is the Yanqul-Fida'-Dank road. The project costs 2,159,203,530 Omani riyals. It was started on 3 April 1985. The second project is the al-Mughsayl-Fawaris road in the southern district, costing 25.908 billion Omani riyals. It was started on 19 June 1985. The third project is the internal Sur road costing 2,255,198,600 Omani rials. It was started on 25 May 1985.

The fourth project is the Izki-Sinnawr-(al-Hamiyah) road (Stage 2.1 A), costing 20,226,869,538 Omani riyals. It was launched on 13 October 1985.

The fifth project is the Academy-Police road, costing 2,489,393,550 Omani riyals. It was started on 23 October 1985.

This is in addition to the new projects of the third 5-year plan, which altogether total 28 projects.

## QATAR

### Steel Company To Become 100-Percent Qatari *Doha AL-RAYAH in Arabic 15 Sep 88 p 5*

[Text] The deputy director for sales and public relations of Qatar Iron and Steel Company, Mr Ahmad Ibn 'Ali al Bu'aynayn, announced that the company will realize a distinctive profit this year. He went on to say that this performance coincides with the beginning of the full transfer of management to Qatari youth by early next year at the expiration of the management contract signed with the Japanese side. He added that the company has opened new markets for its products and that in this connection a ship loaded with 6000 tons of steel left the industrial port of Umm Sa'id early this month headed for al-Hudaydah port in brotherly North Yemen.

Al-Bu'aynayn went on to say in this regard that he will be visiting North Yemen early in October to study the market situation and the possibility of increasing Yemen's share of Qatari iron. On the subject of coordination with the GCC states he said, "Most of our production is marketed within the GCC states with

Saudi Arabia being our largest market." He added that next month a joint session with the Saudi Steel Company will be held at Jubayl to exchange information on production and marketing and that these sessions are held alternately in Qatar and Saudi Arabia on a monthly basis.

Al-Bu'aynayn also alluded to the policy of diversification of sources of raw materials by saying that a ship loaded with the ore used in steel production had arrived from Chile, South America, the previous Saturday evening. This was described as a step within the framework of providing new material at reasonable prices and finding new sources of raw materials needed by Qatari industries.

Regarding the operational capacity of the [steel] mill he said that the company is operating at 100 percent of its capacity estimated at 330 thousand tons annually whereas the mills produce up to half a million tons annually.

On the subject of the company's readiness to transfer management to the national youth, Al-Bu'aynayn said that the public relations branch is preparing a 20-minute documentary film covering the company's history, explaining the production process, and also focusing on the activity of the national youth in the various departments of the company.

## SUDAN

### Former Minister Discusses Foreign, Domestic Policy

*45040021 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 8 Sep 88 p 16*

[Interview with former Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sinada, by Fathi al-Daww; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Dr Ma'mun Sinada, member of the political bureau of the DUP and former foreign minister and minister of information, said that the DUP joined the Sudanese coalition government entirely of its own volition after a majority decision, and that those in the party were abiding by the charter of the coalition.

In a comprehensive interview with AL-WATAN, Dr Sinada, said the DUP would not withdraw into the ranks of the Sudanese opposition following settlement of the redistricting question in favor of the Islamic Front.

He indicated that the DUP had collaborated with the Ummah Party on a single [alternative] law. It had been agreed to discuss all the proposed laws by means of a ministerial committee, so as to emerge with a united opinion.

Dr Sinada denied knowledge of what had been proposed concerning the unification charter between the Sudan and Libya.

The following is the text of the interview. [passage omitted]

[Question] The question [of whether the DUP joined the coalition government voluntarily] still stands. There have been a series of situations reflecting party dissatisfaction with the coalition—for example, the strike by farmers in al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil, the redistricting case, and the al-Hakim case, etc.

[Answer] As for the farmers' strike in al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil, what went on strike was the confederation, not the party. Although the party has an overwhelming majority of the farmers, that is another subject.

[Question] But haven't coalition members accused the party of standing behind the strike?

[Answer] That is untrue and irresponsible talk. It falls under the heading of party intrigues, pure and simple.

[Question] Regarding the latest development on the Sudanese political scene, the question of the redistricting—in my assessment, the question was decided in a surprising way. The DUP had a position. For a long time its leaders have been repeating that if the question of the redistricting were decided in favor of the Islamic Front, the party would withdraw from the coalition. This, however, did not happen.

[Answer] The party has three persons who speak in its name: Party Leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, Party General Secretary al-Sharif Zayn-al-'Abidin al-Hindi, and his deputy, Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayni. Apart from them, any person—whether minister or member of the political bureau—who makes a statement expresses his personal, private opinion.

[Question] Might that not affect the party negatively?

[Answer] Absolutely [not]. Anyone who knows the DUP by its various names and throughout its history knows how it makes decisions and the extent to which this party is democratic.

[Question] But as I recall, a statement on the subject was made in the name of the party leader himself.

[Answer] The question should be addressed to Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani. I do not speak for him.

[Question] Generally speaking, we assume that criticism of the party for its positions concerning the coalition would cause uneasiness in the circles of its leadership.

[Answer] For us as party leaders who know how the party operates, I see no reason for uneasiness. However, our masses do not always necessarily obey a political decision. In general, we are committed to the coalition

agreement as long as we are members in it. We are for the coalition, until "God brings something new to pass which must be done." [passage omitted]

[Question] Many incidents have occurred that cannot be ignored. From time to time during the disaster [of the floods], demonstrations set out. Regretfully, some of them called for the return of Numayri.

[Answer] Those were two or three persons. We cannot say they formed a demonstration. All the same, freedom to demonstrate is part of the democratic process.

[Question] The demonstrations were not small. As I said, they were not a phenomenon that cannot be ignored.

[Answer] I would assure you that they were small. Of course, demonstrations went out expressing anger and protest at what happened. As you mentioned, you could find among them one or two people who were chanting, "Come back, come back, Numayri!" If that had happened conspicuously, I think the individual might have been killed. The people would have forgotten their differences and would have killed that individual. Numayri has no place in the Sudan. People have gone beyond him. He has become part of a history from which people learn a lesson.

[Question] In this connection, you have said that Numayri has no place in the Sudan. We believe that the May regime was not Numayri by himself and that the problem was not Numayri individually. It was a problem of that regime, with its laws, institutions, etc. It has in fact been observed that many important figures of the May regime have trickled into the front ranks of the political parties, meaning that there is a tendency to forget, or pretend to forget, the matter. Do you agree with us on this view?

[Answer] In one of its articles, the charter of the coalition government established the policy of liquidating the vestiges of the May regime—not just individuals, but laws, systems, and institutions. Regarding individuals, there are definite conditions such that anyone to whom they apply is dismissed and not allowed an opportunity to participate in government. I do not believe those conditions apply to any people who are now participating in the government.

[Question] Are you personally satisfied by the way the purge liquidation has taken place? As we know, only four individuals were tried, and Numayri was the fifth. This suggests that the regime was composed of only five persons, which is an insult to the truth.

[Answer] That relates to people who committed crimes violating the criminal law. But a person may also be considered part of the May regime because he committed other crimes that can be regarded as being a sin against the country, but which may not be a crime. In



any case, the government is bound by the text of the coalition compact to eliminate vestiges of the May regime, and it is the government's duty to implement this.

The prime minister has until now held fast to this. He is the one raised the slogan, "Sweep out the vestiges of May." I believe he will be held accountable if that does not take place.

[Question] You are a member of the committee that the party formed concerning the alternative laws. As we know, a number of laws have been proposed. The Islamic Front has surprised the other parties by presenting its own laws for discussion. Doesn't that constitute a violation of the rules of the coalition?

[Answer] When we say "alternative," it means that this is a matter on which people do not all agree and that each group has an individual proposal. As you mentioned, there are three individual proposals: that of the public prosecutor, Dr Hasan al-Turabi, that of the Ummah Party and the DUP, and that of the Mirghani al-Nasri committee. These three individual proposals have been submitted to the council of ministers. The council has charged a committee with considering them and emerging with a coalition point of view. Everyone accepted that. [passage omitted]

[Question] Concerning the story of the conflict in the western Sudan and the entry of Chadian forces into the Sudan—as you know, this has been a topic of discussion for a long time. We would mention that during the period of the coalition government it has been a subject of dispute between the prime minister and Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayni. What we have in mind is that the silence has been interpreted as meaning that there are party figures that have an interested connection with the contending parties. What do you say?

[Answer] I will tell you my opinion as former foreign minister. First, we Sudanese are not a party to what takes place between Libya and Chad. The Sudan does not allow its territory to be used as a staging area for either of the sides. After Muhammad 'Uthman's visit to Darfur, the government decided to strengthen the security forces stationed there. As a result, the incidents decreased. As Muhammad 'Uthman has mentioned, the security forces recently turned their attention to Ibn 'Umar's forces, disarmed them, and prevented Ibn 'Umar from entering the Sudan through Khartoum airport. We in the DUP are against taking advantage of the Sudan. We will not allow its territory to be violated.

[Question] About the recent incident of the announcement of a unity charter between Libya and the Sudan—does this have a connection with what is happening in the western part [of the Sudan]?

[Answer] Again, I really have no knowledge of this charter, since it was announced after I left Khartoum. It is all a surprise to me. Again I say, "What does this have to do with anything?" [passage omitted]

[Question] As you of course know, the DUP was not a signatory of the Kokodam accord along with the other political forces and had reservations about it. Nevertheless, its leaders recently spoke out before the meeting with the leaders of the Popular Movement. How is that proper?

[Answer] In fact, we did neither rejected the agreement nor approved it. All we said was that we were not bound by it, because we were not a party to it.

[Question] But the negotiating leaders said that possibly....

[Answer] Possibly...possibly. As you mentioned, the DUP did not agree and did not oppose.

[Question] What are the possibilities for a meeting between al-Mirghani and the rebel leader, John Garang?

[Answer] We believe they will meet after everything has been made ready and after the agreement. Negotiations do not necessarily mean agreement; but if agreement occurs, it will be crowned by a meeting between Muhammad 'Uthman and John Garang. This is something that lies within the knowledge of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. [passage omitted]

## UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### Report Shows Ministries' Project Spending for 1987

44040022 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 19 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Total costs of projects implemented with the full knowledge of the ministries in the 1987 program were approximately 1.4354 billion dirhams, as against 2.4947 billion dirhams in 1986, of which approximately 984.2 million dirhams had been spent by the end of 1986. The sum of 163.6 million dirhams was budgeted for the year 1987—i.e., 36.2 percent of the remaining costs, which amount to 451.2 million dirhams.

A Planning Ministry report indicated that actual spending on these projects amounted to approximately 53.5 million dirhams during 1987—i.e., 25 percent of the budget. The value of what was actually completed amounted to 42.6 million dirhams (26 percent of the budget). In comparison with 1986, the amount of spending and completion declined noticeably. Spending declined by 42.8 million dirhams (44.4 percent). The value of what was actually completed declined by 16.1 million dirhams (27.3 percent), to approximately 58.7 million dirhams in 1986.

The sum of 30 million dirhams was budgeted for agricultural and fishing loans and for support expenditures this year. Of this sum, about 23.5 million dirhams have been spent (87 percent), as against 11.3 million dirhams in 1986 (38 percent). One should bear in mind that the amount of funds budgeted was the same in the two years.

The Planning Ministry report on the position of the ministries noted the following things:

- The implementation capability of these ministries in 1987 was about 25 percent of the budget as a whole.
- The capability exceeded this average in the Ministry of Information and Culture (45 percent), the Ministry of Communications (92 percent), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (65 percent). In the Interior Ministry, the implementation rate was equal to the general average of 25 percent.
- Implementation capability in some other ministries fell below the general average. In the Foreign Ministry it was 1 percent, in the Ministry of Health 14 percent, and in the Ministry of Electricity and Water 16 percent. The reason for this can be traced to the fact that some 24 million dirhams of the 30 million dirhams in funds budgeted for the Foreign Ministry were for already completed projects. These funds were remitted to the ministry to make payments for them, but the Accounting Bureau stopped the disbursement of these sums. The ministry is still working to remedy the problem. The projects of the Ministry of Electricity and Water have been almost completely accomplished.

The Ministry of Health is undertaking implementation of a single project—the settlement and modernization project. Spending on this project is taking place in accordance with urgent need and necessity.

As concerns the position of performance and implementation at the ministry level, the report states that the actual value of spending on Interior Ministry projects was approximately 12.1 million dirhams (25 percent). The value of what was completed was approximately 4.8 million dirhams (10 percent of budgeted funds).

Funds budgeted for projects of the Ministry of Information and Culture declined to 8.6 million dirhams in 1987, compared with 11.5 million dirhams in 1986. Spending on these projects amounted to 3.9 million dirhams (45 percent of the funds budgeted for the ministry).

As for the Ministry of Health, total costs for the settlement and modernization project and for expansions of ministry projects amounted to 14 million dirhams, of which about 7.5 million had been spent by the end of 1986. About 2.5 million dirhams were budgeted for this project during 1987, but the money spent on it declined this year to 361,000 dirhams (14 percent of the budgeted funds).

The Ministry of Education is undertaking implementation of two projects: the purchase of buildings abroad as educational-cultural centers and the construction of prefabricated classrooms. The two projects were entered for the first time in 1987 on the basis of a ministerial council decision. Work on the two projects was not begun during the aforementioned year.

The Ministry of Transportation is undertaking implementation of a single project—the UAE aviation information region—at a cost of 20 million dirhams, of which 5.9 million dirhams had been spent by the end of 1986. Of the remaining 14.1 million dirhams, about 9 million were budgeted for the project in 1987. About 8.3 million dirhams have been spent (92 percent of the budget).

Funds earmarked for Ministry of Electricity and Water projects declined to 28.5 million dirhams in 1987, compared with 61.2 million dirhams in 1986. Spending amounted to approximately 4.7 million dirhams (16 percent of the budget).

The volume of Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries spending in 1987 was approximately 10.9 million dirhams (61 percent of the budget). The volume of spending on loans and support outlays was about 23.5 million dirhams. It should be noted that purchase of seeds, fertilizers, and insecticides was 97 percent [of the budget]. This was followed by agricultural vehicles and tractors, with an implementation rate of 60 percent of budgeted funds in the category. The category of agricultural loans was the lowest in share of spending (2 percent).

#### Import-Export Trade Statistics for Dubayy

44040024a Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 14 Aug 88 p 2

[Article by 'Ali Lashin]

[Text] The value of Dubayy's foreign trade during the first third of 1988 was up to 9,410,047,632 dirhams, while in terms of weight it was 1,894,366 tons and 846 kg.

Figures released yesterday by the Central Office of Statistics of the Dubayy government stated that the value of exports and re-exports during the period from the first of January to the end of last April was up to 2,292,631,577 dirhams, or 31.4 percent of the value of imports during this period.

The figures showed that the value of imports alone was up to 7,117,416,055 dirhams. Tonnage was up to 488,756 tons and 652 kg.

Nonpetroleum exports had a value of 493,659,895 dirhams, and a weight of 194,685 tons and 29 kg.

Meanwhile, the trade in re-exported goods had a value of 1,798,971,682 dirhams, and a weight of 210,925 tons and 165 kg.

The figures indicated that imports and exports from among the groups of principal commodities had the following values:

- Food and live animals: The value of imports was up to 882,035,302 dirhams, and the value of exports was 371,527,483 dirhams, or 42 percent.
- Beverages and tobacco: Imports were valued at 104,160,400 dirhams, while exports were valued at 29,093,671 dirhams, or about 28 percent.
- Raw and primary materials: Imports were valued at 138,317,496 dirhams, while exports were valued at 57,414,129 dirhams, or 41 percent.
- Mineral fuel and its derivatives: Imports were valued at 269,449,361 dirhams, while exports were valued at 44,415,425 dirhams, or 16 percent.
- Animal and vegetable fats and oils: Imports were valued at 40,326,037 dirhams, while exports were valued at 11,433,590 dirhams, or 28.5 percent.
- Chemicals and their derivatives: Imports were valued at 493,574,069 dirhams, while exports were valued at 81,504,694 dirhams, or 16.5 percent.
- Classified industrial goods: Imports were valued at 1,816,021,061 dirhams, while exports were valued at 790,432,205 dirhams, or 43.5 percent.
- Nonclassified industrial goods: Imports were valued at 428,286,827 dirhams, while exports were valued at 403,324,759 dirhams, or 28 percent.
- Cars and transportation equipment: Imports were valued at 1,934,400,495 dirhams, while exports were valued at 408,709,607 dirhams, or 21 percent.
- Finally, the value of exports from miscellaneous other goods and transactions was 94,776,014 dirhams, while the value of imports in this group was 10,845,007 dirhams.

**1988 Import-Export Statistics for Dubayy**  
*44040042b Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Sep 88 p 2*

[Article by 'Ali Lashin]

[Text] Dubayy's nonoil foreign trade in the first months of this year amounted to 2,390,277 metric tons and 786 kg valued at 11,993,185,800 dirhams.

Imports alone accounted for 1,868,533 tons and 194 kg valued at 9,058,332,493 dirhams.

The volume of nonoil exports was 255,610 tons and 95 kg with a value of 654,064,398 dirhams. Re-exports amounted to 266,134 tons and 497 kg valued at 2,280,788,909 dirhams.

Exports and re-exports therefore had a combined volume of 521,744.592 kg with a value of 2,934,853,307 dirhams. This is 32.4 percent of the value of imports.

Statistics released yesterday by the Central Bureau of the Statistics of the government of Dubayy show the following values of imports and exports of each major category of goods and the value of exports as a percentage of imports for the period from January through May of this year:

- Foodstuffs and live animals: Imports valued at 1,106,712,450 dirhams compared to exports of 453,256,196 dirhams or 41 percent.
- Beverages and tobacco: Imports valued at 139,372,174 dirhams compared to exports of 40,252,063 dirhams or 28.77 percent.
- Raw materials: Imports valued at 183,356,691 dirhams compared to exports of 73,286,493 dirhams or 40 percent.
- Fossil fuels and lubricating oils: Imports valued at 326,148,449 dirhams. Exports at 53,657,900 dirhams or 16 percent.
- Animal and vegetable fats and oils: Imports valued at 53,576,913 dirhams. Exports of 12,391,935 dirhams or 22.6 percent.
- Chemicals and derivatives: Imports of 624,601,605 dirhams compared to exports of 111,085,984 dirhams or 18 percent.
- Classified industrial goods: Imports valued at 2,290,782,119 dirhams compared to exports of 1,005,859,115 dirhams or 43.88 percent.
- Cars and transport equipment: Imports valued at 2,490,800,396 dirhams. Exports at 556,319,948 dirhams or 22 percent.
- Uncategorized industrial goods: Imports of 1,829,738,891 dirhams. Exports at 508,523,811 dirhams or 27 percent.

**Al-Shariqah's Statistics for Textile Facilities**  
*44040042a Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 5 Sep 88 p 2*

[Article by Nadir Makansi]

[Text] The industry of spinning, weaving, sewing, and embroidery had 43 facilities in 1987, capitalized at some 10,740,000 dirhams of which citizens invested 5,465,000 dirhams, according to a study by the Department of Economic Affairs in al-Shariqah.

The study classified this sector of the industry into two segments:

**Spinning and Weaving**

This encompasses 22 facilities capitalized at 9,200,000 dirhams of which citizens invested 4 million dirhams. This industry is divided into two groups:

- Those with capital exceeding 250,000 dirhams. This group encompasses 14 facilities capitalized at 8,300,000 dirhams of which citizen investment amounts to 4,176,000 dirhams.

- The second group is comprised of industries whose capital is less than 250,000 dirhams. This encompasses eight facilities capitalized at 900,000 dirhams, of which citizens invested 459,000 dirhams.

#### **Sewing and Embroidery Plants With Six or More Machines**

A facility with less than six machines is classified as a craft shop rather than an industry, according to the Department of Economic Affairs.

This industry encompasses 21 facilities capitalized at 1,540,000 dirhams, of which citizen investment amounts to 830,000 dirhams or 54 percent of total capital.

The sewing and embroidery industry is divided into two segments.

- Industries capitalized at more than 250,000 dirhams. There is only one facility in this category. It is capitalized at 1 million dirhams, of which citizens invested 510,000 dirhams.
- Industries whose capital is less than 250,000 dirhams are 20 facilities capitalized at 540,000 dirhams of which citizens invested 320,000 dirhams. In 1986, the spinning, weaving, and sewing industry employed 267 persons and had a product valued at 6,134,000 dirhams.

#### **1988 Import-Export Statistics for Al-Sharīqah**

44040043b *Al-Sharīqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic*  
6 Sep 88 p 6

[Text] National trade via al-Sharīqah ports rose noticeably during the first 6 months of this year.

The volume of al-Sharīqah trade during that period amounted to 714,000 tons valued at \$2.36 billion, according to figures released by the Department of Customs.

The country's imports through al-Sharīqah during that period rose to 270,200 tons valued at 1.1695 billion dirhams. This is an increase of 75 million dirhams or 7 percent.

The figures also revealed that during the first half of this year, the value of imported foods and live animals rose to 363.1 million dirhams; of transport machinery and equipment to 282.1 million dirhams; of classified manufactured goods to 198.7 million dirhams; and of assorted manufactured goods to 181 million.

Imports of chemicals were valued at 69.5 million dirhams; of fossil fuels, lubricants, and related items at 30.7 million; of beverages and tobacco at 29.6 million; and of nonfuel and nonedible raw material at 10 million.

The statistics indicated that imports came from more than 70 countries headed by Japan, imports from which were valued at 218.7 million dirhams, followed by Taiwan (76.9 million), the United States (65.4 million), France (65.1 million), and India (53.7 million).

Imports from Arab countries came to 55.7 million dirhams or only 4.8 percent of total al-Sharīqah imports.

Most imports from the Arab world came from Lebanon (22.8 million dirhams) followed by Iraq (15.9 million dirhams), Egypt (5 million), Morocco (3.9 million), and Bahrain (2.5 million). Imports also originated in Sudan, Jordan, Syria, Djibouti, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Yemen Arab Republic, Kuwait, and Tunisia.

Goods in transit through al-Sharīqah air and sea ports also increased during the first half of 1988 to 285,000 tons valued at 1.008 billion dirhams.

According to the statistics, transit goods included foodstuffs and live animals valued at 69.4 million dirhams, assorted manufactured goods (79 million), transport equipment and supplies (31.7 million), chemicals (13.1 million), and beverages and tobacco (14.4 million).

Re-exported goods during the first 6 months of this year rose in value to 127.5 million dirhams (37,800 tons in volume) and included transport equipment and supplies valued at 63.3 million dirhams and foodstuffs and livestock valued at 29.8 million dirhams.

#### **Statistics Show Growth in Chemical Industry**

44040024b *Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic* 21 Aug 88 p 2

[Text] Al-Sharīqah (WAM)—During the past year, the chemicals industry in al-Sharīqah achieved a large growth that reflected positively on the economics of the emirate. It was able to do so by virtue of the development of production operations in the industry that were able to compete with their imported counterparts, and were able to be superior to them with respect to quantity, quality, and price. This has caused them to be met with wide circulation within the state and at the level of the states of the region and of many Arab and foreign states. That confirms the value of the production of this industry during 1986, which more than doubled the capital invested in it, reaching 290 million dirhams a year.

It came out in the reports of the Economics Department in al-Sharīqah that the capital invested in the chemicals industry in al-Sharīqah rose during 1987 to 144.3 million dirhams in 53 establishments. The value of public shares in them is 76.6 million dirhams, which represents 53 percent of the total capital.

In addition, the number of workers in these establishments reached 1599 persons, whose total wages and salaries was up to 48.1 million dirhams in 1986, or an average of 30,000 dirhams per worker per year.

By classifying the establishments operating in the chemicals industry according to kind, it is clear that 11 of them work in the plastics industry. Their capital is 26.9 million dirhams, of which 16.3 million dirhams is the value of the public shares in them, while the value of production was up to 60 million dirhams in 1986. A total of 632 persons work in them, at wages totaling 13.2 million dirhams a year.

The number of establishments operating in the fiberglass industry was up to 16. They had a capital of 37.2 million dirhams, of which the public share was 18.3 million dirhams. What they produce has a value of 49.5 million dirhams a year, and employee wages are up to about 9 million dirhams for 335 employees during 1986.

The number of establishments that are active in the production of other chemicals was up to 26. Their capital is 80.2 million dirhams, of which the value of public shares is 42 million dirhams. The value of what was produced by them was 180.4 million dirhams a year, while 832 persons work in them at wages that totaled 25.9 million dirhams in 1986.

By distributing the establishments in the chemicals industry according to the year in which activity began, it is evident that in 1983 32 establishments began operating. Their capital is 126.9 million dirhams, and the value of their production was 279 million dirhams for the same year, and 1501 workers are employed in them. The following year, three other establishments began operations in the same activity. Their capital is 704 million dirhams, and 51 persons work in them. In 1985, three other establishments began operations in the chemicals industry. Their capital is 3.1 million dirhams, and their production has a value of 2.5 million dirhams a year, and they have 26 employees. Six other establishments began operations in the same field in 1986, with capital amounting to 2.46 million dirhams, and the value of what they produce is up to 1.1 million dirhams, while 21 persons work in them. In addition, nine other establishments began operations in this industry in 1987, with a capital of 4.7 million dirhams. Reports are not available on the value of their production or on their workers. By classifying the establishments of the chemicals industry according to their legal status, the establishments that are incorporated head the list at 26. These are followed by establishments with limited status, being 17 in number. In addition, there are seven establishments under sole ownership, and three under limited partnership.

#### **Statistics Show Increase in Trade With Southeast Asia**

44040021 *Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic* 13 Aug 88 p 2

[Article by Ahmad Muhsin: "UAE Trade With East Asia in 1987"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Figures for UAE imports from Southeast Asian countries registered a large jump during the past 2 years, 1986 and 1987, reaching 3 and 4 billion dirhams respectively, against 2.6 billion dirhams in 1985, and forming 15 percent of total imports last year.

A Central Bank report attributed this large increase to the development of industries of those countries, their low costs compared with industries of the advanced countries, and their increasing competitiveness. Exchange rate developments such as the decline of the dirham's purchasing power in relation to the currencies of the industrial countries and its stability in relation to the currencies of the countries of Southeast Asia also contributed to the shift by UAE importers to these countries as a cheap source of imports.

Regarding exports, the report stated that petroleum represented the most important commodity exported to the countries of this group. It was this commodity that tipped the balance of trade with these countries in favor of the UAE for a number of years. Exports of commodities other than oil, however, rose from 121 million dirhams in 1982, to 144 million dirhams in 1987, or 9.5 percent of the UAE's total exports.

Re-export trade to the countries of Southeast Asia was of limited scope, amounting to 91 million dirhams in 1982. However, in 1987 it rose to 197 million dirhams. Most of it was directed to Singapore and Hong Kong, among the countries of the group.

Regarding the distribution of UAE imports from the Southeast Asian countries, the report made it clear that Taiwan remained the UAE's primary source [of imports] among the Southeast Asian countries in the period 1982-86, with South Korea taking second place. In 1987, South Korea took over first place with imports from it jumping to more than 1 billion dirhams. In 1987, imports from South Korea formed 28.4 percent of total imports from the countries of the group, followed by imports from Taiwan (22.4 percent), Thailand (15 percent), Singapore, and Hong Kong.

South Korea's importance as a UAE trading partner has risen in recent years. Until 1986, South Korea continued to occupy second place among Southeast Asian countries exporting to the UAE. In 1987, it jumped into first place with UAE imports from it amounting to 1.135 billion dirhams against 511 million dirhams in 1982. Thus, imports [from South Korea] more than doubled within 7 years. UAE imports from South Korea represent a variety of products: radios, electrical appliances, computers, various kinds of electrical equipment, machines, transportation equipment, and automobiles.

Taiwan continued to occupy first place among countries of the group on the list of exporters to the UAE. Imports from Taiwan in 1987 amounted to about 896 million dirhams. The most important commodities Taiwan exports to the UAE are manufactured goods classified according to the material from which they are made, machines, equipment, clothing, textiles, luggage, (furniture?), shoes, electronic goods, electrical equipment, and toys.

UAE imports from Thailand in 1987 amounted to about 600 million dirhams, forming 15 percent of imports from the group of countries under study. (In 1981, they had amounted to about 200 million dirhams.) Imports from Thailand include a variety of commodities and manufactured materials, shoes, machines, and equipment.

UAE imports from Singapore in 1987 amounted to about 494 million dirhams, forming 12.4 percent of total imports from the group. They included foodstuffs, food oils, oil derivatives, machines, household electrical equipment, textiles, and some other products.

Imports from Hong Kong in 1987 amounted to about 425 million dirhams (10.6 percent of total imports from the countries of the group). Hong Kong ranked fifth among these countries in import volume. Imports from it included manufactured goods, machines, household electrical equipment, and various goods such as radios, computers, clothing, and other miscellaneous goods.

As for imports from the remaining countries of the group, the most important of them were Indonesia, followed by Malaysia, and finally the Philippines. The values were small, and the imports consisted of manufactured goods, machines, equipment, and various manufactured materials.

The UAE's trade balance with the countries of Southeast Asia realized surpluses from 1983 to 1985. (It had shown a deficit of 122.3 million dirhams in 1982.) In 1983, the surplus in the balance of trade was 1.4525 billion dirhams. In 1984, it rose to 1.4825 billion dirhams, and rapidly jumped to 5.2802 billion dirhams in 1985 (a 260 percent increase). This increase was due to the increasing surplus in the UAE's balance of trade with the Philippines, Singapore, and South Korea, while the remaining countries of the group showed a deficit in the UAE's balance of trade during the period under study. The UAE's trade surplus with Singapore rose from 16.5566 billion dirhams in 1984 to 3.9762 billion dirhams [figures as published] in 1985, an increase of 140 percent. With the Philippines, it rose from 152.0 million dirhams in 1984, to 269.5 million dirhams. The UAE's trade surplus with South Korea rose from 712.15 million dirhams in 1984 to 1.9640 billion dirhams in 1985, an increase of 176 percent.

With the arrival of 1986, the large balance of trade surplus with the Southeast Asia countries turned into a deficit amounting to about 95 million dirhams. This was due to a decrease in UAE exports to these countries whose value amounted to about 3.353 billion dirhams against 8.3785 billion dirhams in 1985. This was accompanied by a rise in UAE imports from the group which reached about 3.4478 billion dirhams against 3.09837 billion dirhams in 1985, leading to the recording of a deficit in the balance.

The 1986 decline in UAE exports to the Southeast Asia countries can also be traced to the drop in the values of oil exports to Singapore, the Philippines, and South

Korea. The value of UAE oil exports to Singapore fell from 4.1984 billion dirhams in 1985 to 870 million dirhams in 1986. In the case of South Korea, the value fell to 1.0964 billion dirhams against 2.0946 billion dirhams. The value of UAE oil exports to the Philippines fell from 242.8 million dirhams to 133.5 million dirhams. This was due both to lower prices and to a decrease in the quantities of oil [exported]. It should be noted that crude oil constitutes a large percentage of UAE exports to these three countries: about 90 percent in the case of Singapore, 97 percent in the case of South Korea, and 90 percent in the case of the Philippines (1985 figures).

Interestingly, the value of UAE crude oil exports to the remaining countries of the group (Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, and Taiwan) rose by rates ranging between 5 and 100 percent in 1986. For example, the value of UAE oil exports to Hong Kong rose from 30.25 million dirhams in 1985 to 66.7 million dirhams in 1986. This was due to the fact that these countries used the decline in oil prices as an opportunity to increase their oil exports. Nevertheless, despite the rise in the value of UAE oil exports to these countries, the deficit still exists. This is a result of the large differential between UAE exports and imports from these countries.

#### **AL-'UTAYBAH Calls for Business Mergers To Confront Competition**

*44040043a Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic  
5 Sep 88 p 6*

[Text] Sa'id Ibn-Ahmad al-'Utaybah, chairman of the board of directors of the Abu Dhabi chamber of commerce and industry, called upon domestic firms and establishments, especially in the sectors of contracts, trade, supply, banks, and insurance, to organize themselves and synergize their efforts by restructuring into larger and more developed entities with a wider base, and to merge into sizable units in order to be able to play an important role in the region's reconstruction efforts and upcoming prosperity in the aftermath of the Iraq-Iran War and to assert themselves in the everchanging and developing markets of today.

Playing such a role would enable the region to make up for the losses it suffered because of war-induced economic recession, AL-'UTAYBAH said in an editorial in today's issue of the magazine of the Abu Dhabi chamber of commerce.

AL-'UTAYBAH wrote: "It is imperative to organize and solidify efforts in order to compete with giant corporations from west and east which have already begun to reopen offices in the area in order to reap the fruits of peace.... They were early beneficiaries in the economic and noneconomic sectors and have already laid plans to be early beneficiaries in times of peace also!"

He added, "In order to take part in the upcoming stage, the restructuring of domestic firms must be based on the realities of the upcoming stage, whether it pertains to the

size and type of projects or to the time frame of the anticipated business development in Iraq and Iran."

Domestic firms created as individual investments and previously able to meet domestic development needs will not be able to get a reasonable share during current and future stages unless they immediately begin to harness their efforts and merge into large entities.

AL-'UTAYBAH added that merging domestic firms into large units is important in order to terminate competition among them and enable them to face intense foreign competition, increase ability to enter the regional marketplace, bolster financial capability, and affect economies of scale. That vital requirement is dictated not only by the importance of acquiring a market share but is also sometimes based on proven theoretical and practical considerations born out of economic development.

## INDIA

**Indian Offer to Pakistan, Better Relations Seen**  
46001067 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English  
21 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Srinagar, Sept 20 (PTI). India has offered Pakistan a proposal for a joint survey of disputed points along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir, in a bid to resolve border disputes peacefully, a defence ministry spokesman said here today.

He, however, said Pakistan had so far not responded to India's offer.

Commenting on the firing that took place last week in the Kargil sector between Indian and Pakistani troops, the spokesman said it followed a dispute over a piece of land in the area.

He denied reports appearing in a section of the press that India had lost control of Shagura village or any other post in the Kargil sector recently.

Islamabad (PTI): The Indian ambassador, Mr S.K. Singh, said on Tuesday he could foresee the 21st century propelling the Indian and Pakistani societies towards much closer cooperation and inter-dependence.

Addressing a gathering of intellectuals at the Institute of Strategic Studies of Pakistan, Mr Singh felt that doubts, hesitations, suspicions and desire to settle accounts had festered too long.

Both countries were now under pressure from the demands of history, technology and the changes "that are taking place all around us, which we can neither stop, control nor even affect," the Indian envoy opined.

In years to come, Mr Singh said China, Japan and India would have a growing impact on the economic, political and security aspects of the world, more specially of Asia. "The three largest economies of Asia are stirring."

During the question-answer session, the Indian envoy was asked about India's reluctance to agree to mutual inspection of nuclear facilities with Pakistan and delay in formalizing a treaty for non-attack on each other's nuclear installations and a non-aggression pact.

Mr Singh felt that Pakistan's nuclear programme, started in 1972, was weapon-oriented.

**No Progress Seen in Fourth Round of Siachen Talks**  
46001076 New Delhi *PATRIOT* in English  
25 Sep 88 p 1

[Article by Cecil Victor]

[Text] The fourth round of talks on the Siachen issue which ended on Saturday has not gone beyond a decision to meet again which raises the question: could it, or even should it, have been different.

That is, could India have agreed to draw the Line of Actual Control beyond grid reference NJ9842 in a north-eastward direction which would have put the Siachen Glacier under the control of an aggressor who has calculatedly sought to extend illegal occupation.

Or, could Pakistan, the aggressor, agree that the Line of Actual Control must be drawn due north of NJ 9842 which would in one stroke destroy the underpinning of a anti-India geostrategic consensus of which the US and China are active partners?

That no such decisions were taken is gratifying but the danger that such a decision could be taken at a later round of talks hangs like a sword over India. Especially since the decision to meet again is seen as "a sign of progress" by official spokesmen.

The protestations of bonhomie at these talks has obfuscated why the Siachen issue has arisen at all. The late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi inducted Indian troops onto the glacier when it became obvious that a conspiracy was afoot under the guise of mountaineering expeditions to show "control" and by misrepresentation on U.S. maps that the area belongs to Pakistan. It was a conspiracy in which the U.S. and Pakistan were active partners and China had lent tacit support because the advantages that accrue in the consolidation of the illegal occupation of territory through which the Karakoram Highway linking Pakistan and China has been built.

If Mrs Indira Gandhi had not rushed Indian troops to the Siachen Glacier, control of another strategic segment of Indian territory (which would open another axis of approach for further military adventures against India) would have become available to Pakistan. Can Mr Rajiv Gandhi disregard all the implications of that move and formalize an arrangement that lends legitimacy to Pakistani aggression which in turn is based on the theocratic two-nation theory?

Which is what makes it so difficult to understand why there should be any talks at all on the Siachen issue. What are the compulsions under which the Government of India is acting which force it to hold one round after the other of talks with Pakistan on the "Siachen issue."



Is it the cumulative effect of the retired military orchestra which harps on the theme that it is no use fighting there because not a blade of grass grows, and the U.S. pressure that we must continue to talk to Pakistan irrespective of its clandestine support to the Kashmiri and Sikh secessionists and a military build-up that threatens our territorial integrity?

The Government of India's failure to rebut the Doordarshan claim that "India regards that the Kashmir issue is already settled," strengthens the suspicion that it has reconciled to a division of Kashmir based on the present Line of Actual Control.

The joint statement issued after two days of intensive negotiations says: "The discussions were conducted in a frank and friendly atmosphere and both sides reiterated their commitment to work for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Siachen issue in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

"It was agreed that the next round of Defence Secretaries' talks will be held in Islamabad in January/February, 1989."

The Simla Agreement does not envisage a piecemeal settlement of the Kashmir issue which the Siachen imbroglio implies. If there are to be talks at all it should be to resolve the Kashmir issue in its totality which, in essence, is the vacation of Pakistani aggression.

India is committed to a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue but if Pakistan continues to make determined efforts to dislodge Indian troops from the Siachen Glacier by military means after its failure to annex the territory clandestinely then the only appropriate Indian response is a military riposte.

**Officials 'Shocked' at Dhaka's Helicopter Snub**  
46001071 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English  
22 Sep 88 p 1

[Article by Manash Ghosh]

[Text] India's gesture in rushing to Bangladesh's side during calamitous floods—intended to bring about a diplomatic thaw and an improvement in bilateral relations—has instead given rise to a diplomatic crisis of sorts, with Dhaka taking the "unprecedented step" of "ordering four IAF helicopters engaged in relief operations out of Bangladesh immediately."

A "shocked" Mr S. Chaddha, India's High Commissioner to Dhaka, rushed to Delhi on Wednesday for "urgent consultations" via Calcutta. During his brief stopover in the city, he did not want to say much, except: "We are unhappy and upset over this strange development.... I was suddenly rung up by the Bangladesh Additional Foreign Secretary on Tuesday, to say that the IAF helicopters should immediately be withdrawn, as Bangladesh did not need them any more. We have failed

to understand the logic behind this surprising decision, since three Saudi Arabian and two Iraqi helicopters, which came much after our helicopters had started flying relief sorties in Bangladesh, were allowed to carry on with their 'mercy mission.' This is the most queer aspect of the whole development. It is not proper for me to react officially. The External Affairs Ministry will do so shortly," Mr Chaddha said.

The most surprising feature of Dhaka's decision is that the helicopters were told to leave at a time when, according to the Bangladesh Government's own projections, about 60 helicopters were needed for relief operations. Although the Chinese Government had pledged to provide some helicopters, they were yet to arrive in Dhaka. Similar pledges by other Governments are yet to be fulfilled.

The IAF copters were the first foreign relief aircraft to reach Bangladesh and they provided the only means of transport for reaching relief to remote areas during the worst phase of disastrous floods.

What has "shocked" the Government of India is the "harsh and unceremonious manner" in which IAF copters were asked to leave. "Having borne the brunt of the relief operations during the first fortnight of this month, flying almost 10 sorties a day and reaching every nook and corner of the devastated countryside, this sudden decision has shocked up. Our pilots, familiar with the local terrain, landed relief goods at badly affected areas like Munshiganj and Mymensingh, from where the British-piloted Saudi choppers had to come away. Each IAF copter carried two to three tons of relief goods on each sortie—much more than the other copters. Where they could not land they winched down supplies. More than 170 sorties were made during the 18 days that our 'copters were there. They were the most active and effective. Our pilots were cheered and greeted. Our High Commission in Dhaka has been flooded with letters heaping praise on the services rendered by the IAF and India. You must see the fan mail, to judge the popular Bangladeshi reaction to our relief effort," Mr Chaddha said.

This, Indian officials guess, may have irked the Bangladesh Government and some Opposition leaders. The sight of IAF helicopters flying in and out of Dhaka's centrally located Tejgaon airport was resented by many Bangladeshi Opposition leaders, who are well known for India baiting. While the Bangladeshi media played up the promised foreign aid for the flood victims, it hardly mentioned the relief provided by India.

Indian officials were surprised over Bangladesh Government's lukewarm response to India's decision to send IAF helicopters for flood relief within hours of President Ershad's appeal for international help. Delhi wanted to fly the IAF helicopters from Guwahati to Dhaka at 6 a.m. on September 2.

"But Dhaka told us that there was no hurry. And when they landed in Dhaka around 10 a.m. on September 2, the pilots were made to wait for six hours for some formality. There were many other instances when the Bangladeshi officials were cold and unresponsive to our offers of help. They and some politicians did not like the Barnakrishna Mission doing relief work. But the Bangladesh Foreign Office cleared all objections," an Indian External Affairs Ministry official said.

**Delhi States Guidelines for  
Support to Burmese Struggle**

46001059 Madras *THE HINDU* in English  
14 Sep 88 p 9

[Article by K. K. Katyal: "India Supports Struggle"]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Sep. 13. Taking a cautious line on Burma, India has expressed sympathy with the current struggle for a democratic set-up but taken care to avoid the impression of interference in that country's internal affairs.

This view has crystallised after a close study of the situation there in the light of the reports, received through normal diplomatic channels. Because of continued uncertainty and confusion since the beginning of the protest movement in Burma last month, New Delhi preferred to keep quiet in the first instance but broke its silence two days ago.

The statement issued over the weekend, it is pointed out, will continue to serve as the policy guidelines in the tumultuous period ahead. "We have been watching," it said, "the recent developments in Burma with particular attention. We have noted the undaunted resolve of the Burmese people to establish a fully democratic structure in their country. This aspiration fully accords with India's firm commitment to democracy. It is our hope that the Burmese people will be able to fulfil their legitimate democratic aspirations for a representative Government." The sentiments of support and sympathy are thus clear.

India, according to the statement, will be happy to cooperate in the task of building a better and brighter future for the people of Burma. This is an offer of help in the economic reconsideration of the country, now ravaged by turmoil and conflict and is not to be seen as having political overtones.

Equally significant is the Government's stress on "the unity and consensus" of democratic forces "for a peaceful and orderly transition to permit free and fair elections." This is to be viewed in the context of divisions and discussions in the ranks of disparate political forces, agitating for a multi-party system.

**Kashmir Border With Pakistan  
Sealed on Line of Control**

46001063 New Delhi *PATRIOT* in English  
19 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Srinagar, Sept 18 (UNI)—India's border with Pakistan along the line of actual control has been sealed in the Kashmir valley and Ladakh region to minimise armed infiltration, Corps Commander Lieutenant General D. S. R. Sahni today said.

He was speaking to reporters at Kargil in Ladakh region, soon after Defence Minister K. C. Pant addressed the jawans there.

Gen Sahni said there was no need for alarm as the army was on alert to face any eventuality.

Gen Sahni said exchange of fire between India and Pakistan on the strategic Siachin glacier had been going on intermittently.

The bodies of four killed would be handed over to Pakistan on Tuesday on humanitarian grounds, he added.

**India, USSR Plan Agreement To Balance Trade**

46001073 Calcutta *THE TELEGRAPH* in English  
23 Sep 88 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 22 (PTI): India and the USSR have agreed to work out the principle of overall economy level balancing of trade between the two countries.

The Planning Commission member, Dr Yoginder K. Alagh, leader of the high-level delegation, which returned here this morning after discussions with the Soviet Gosplan (planning commission), said it was expected that the issue would be resolved before the forthcoming visit of the general secretary, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, in November next.

Dr Alagh said both countries had agreed to nominate persons to work out the principle.

The Soviet side was led by Dr Y. P. Khomenko, deputy chairman of Gosplan. The Indian delegation met Mr V. Khamentsev, Soviet central committee member and chief of the body on international economic affairs.

Dr Alagh said the Soviet Union had agreed to look favorably into India's requests for powergrade coal, petrochemical products and timber while finalizing their five-year plan.

India would set up a working group, which would identify product-level cooperation in technology and similar working groups on other subjects would prepare a plan up to 1995 for Indo-Soviet cooperation.

Earlier, Dr Alagh told newsmen in Moscow that by and large there had been significant progress in the effort to expand the volume of trade by two and-a-half times by 1992.

He stated that India had told the Soviets that it was interested in importing powergrade coal and set up power plants in coastal areas. The Soviet response to this proposal was positive, he added.

India had also shown interest in utilizing Soviet experience in directional blasting for the irrigation sector, he said, citing the example of Rengali project in Orissa where the first 20 km of the canal has to pass through mountains.

The two sides also identified some new areas, like agriculture, fishing and civil aircraft manufacturing.

India has mooted the idea of credit facilities for the private sector through the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), to which the Soviet response was positive.

The Indian delegation, which included Mr Sam Pitroda, technology mission adviser, had offered to the Soviets Indian expertise in managerial and material efficiency.

Dr Alagh said the two sides had discussed manufacturing in India of AN-28, a 23-seater civil aircraft. Vayudoot was interested in this aircraft, while the Soviets expressed interest in buyback arrangements.

#### **Major Agreements Expected From Gorbachev Visit**

46001079 Delhi *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English  
23 Sep 88 p 7

[Text] Moscow, September 22 (UNI). The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, are expected to sign a major agreement under which the Soviet Union will provide India with two nuclear reactors with a capacity of 100 MW each.

This will be the major highlight of the Soviet leader's forthcoming visit to Delhi in mid-November.

Moscow had offered India a reactor of 1,000 MW but later conceded to India's request for two reactors of 440 MW each. But growing power requirements of India has now forced the policy planners to go for the most powerful pressurized water reactors.

Sources here said the Soviet Union will provide India at least a five-year stock of enriched uranium. This is being done to avoid the Tarapur experience.

Besides the Soviet Union is believed to have agreed to take back the spent fuel.

At the Delhi summit, other expected subjects of discussion are power generation, irrigation and trade development.

Mr Gorbachev will visit Delhi in mid-November to attend the closing ceremony of the Soviet Union's year-long festival in India. He will also receive the Indira Gandhi peace award.

Documents on modernization of Bokaro steel plant, exploration and development of coal mines and an ambitious trade plan will be covered under the Indo-Soviet collaboration.

India is also likely to receive Soviet know-how on directional blasting for construction of canals. Soviet collaboration in this area is expected to materialize in Rengali project in Orissa hills.

Other likely notable areas of new assistance include reservoirs for fishing and deep sea fishing.

India also is likely to extend its help to the USSR in mastering techniques of business management. Under restructuring of Soviet economy, Moscow is keen on improving its management efficiency.

A major shift in trade relationship between India and the USSR is also in the offing.

Moscow is reported to have agreed to India's proposal for introducing overall balance in trade instead of item-wise balance.

India is reported to have offered to the USSR credit facilities through its industrial development bank for Soviet assisted private and public sector projects in India.

Another sector for Indo-Soviet collaboration is the urban transport and inland shipping facilities in India. India had shown special interest in Soviet system of trolley buses.

#### **CPI Leader Defends Formation of National Front** 46001060 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English 15 Sep 88 p 17

[Article by Anand K. Sahay: "NF Parties Not Rightists: Indrajit"]

[Text] New Delhi, September 14. Maintaining that "internally nothing could be worse than the Rajiv Gandhi regime," Mr Indrajit Gupta, the CPI leader and leading parliamentarian, has stated that "taken together" the four national parties in the National Front cannot be characterised as "rightist" parties.

In a significant article likely to cause inner-party discussion within the CPI, Mr Gupta, a member of the CPI's secretariat, the party's highest executive body, has

described as "mischievous and hypocritical arguments meant to block all advance towards a non-Congress alternative" two sets of pleadings advanced by "progressive" intellectuals.

These are that any non-Congress government would scuttle the country's anti-imperialist foreign policy, and that there is no viable alternative to the Congress with any degree of credibility with the people.

Entitled "Emerging alternatives to a doomed government," Mr Gupta's article appeared four days ago in CNS, the CPI's feature service, and is slated for publication in KALANTAR, the party's Bengali daily published from Calcutta.

Mr Gupta has said that the arguments advanced by the "progressive" intellectuals have been made despite "blatant assaults on democracy" by the Rajiv government.

Referring to the recent rumoured attempts by the Congress to woo the left through seemingly pro-left gestures, the CPI leader observes, "all these suggestions are, of course, aimed at distancing the Communists from the emerging National Front of opposition parties."

Mr Gupta has also talked of the "fast-growing popular discontent against the Rajiv government, and its anti-democratic, authoritarian and corrupt policies and practices."

He has said that after the by-election defeats last June, the "wishful thinking" in Congress circles veered towards a new strategy designed to candidate all Congress forces (by inducting former Congressmen back into the party), woo the left, "disrupt the growing tempo of opposition unity, and project the Central government as the champion of national unity and international detente."

The CPI leader has also charged the "Rajiv regime" with "compromising the unity of the country by its equivocal and opportunist attitude towards the divisive forces of communalism, fundamentalism, casteism, obscurantism, secessionism and even terrorism in the Punjab," in addition to its "latently anti-democratic policies and encouragement of corruption."

Challenging the view that a non-Congress government would scuttle the country's "anti-imperialist" foreign policy, Mr Gupta said that India's foreign policy was the historical product of a national consensus, and its basic principles could not be reversed without forfeiting public confidence and inviting international criticism.

In fact, he noted, that even the Janata Party "which boasted of many Soviet-baiters, friends of western powers and advocates of so-called genuine non-alignment" could not liberate itself from the straitjacket of the country's nationally accepted foreign policy.

Mr Gupta argued that a readymade alternative to the Congress was not going to "descend from the heavens", but had to be built up gradually. The alternative of a "left, democratic and secular front" was also not going to materialise by the time of the next elections, he said, adding that no single party was capable of assuming the role of replacing the ruling party at the national level.

#### Front 'Secular'

In the circumstances, he pointed, that the logic of the situation "leads inevitably to a combination or alliance of opposition parties, including the regional ones which are running governments in their respective states."

He said in the absence of the system of proportional representation in the country where the electoral process was characterised by the principle of first-past-the-post, every opposition party would "naturally try to improve its legislative position with the help of alliance-adjustment with like-minded parties."

"The alternative," he noted, "is to remain in splendid isolation." In the interest of the left movement itself, he said, it would be foolish for the Communist parties to treat the "bourgeois centrists as untouchables," especially in the Hindi-speaking region.

He said the National Front was "broadly secular" and committed to defending national unity against divisive forces, though on class questions like land reforms and the right to strike its support was "at best formed."

**CPI-M Leader Says Gandhi Plotted With TNV**  
46001068 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English  
21 Sep 88 p 17

[Text] New Delhi, September 20. Even as the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was promising to wipe out the TNV in Tripura during the assembly election campaign last February, his government had already entered into a conspiracy with the TNV to do all that was possible to get rid of the CPM-led Left Front government in the state, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, the CPM general secretary charged today.

The CPM leader reproduced in a statement, letters written by the TNV leader, Mr Bejoy Hrangkhawl to Mr Gandhi, as well as to Mr Lal Thanhawla, the Mizoram Congress leader and former state chief minister, and Mr Lal Thanhawla's reply to him. These have been brought out in the August 22 issue of ZOENG, a Mizoram bi-weekly.

Mr Namboodiripad said the letters were part of the secret Congress-TNV negotiations which were conducted between October and December last year.

The Left Front government, which was defeated in the election held on February 2, was kept in the dark about these negotiations though they concerned reaching the Tripura accord.

What is more, the Congress leadership let it be known to the TNV leader that the Tripura election was to be held on February 2, though till then the date had not been communicated by the election commission to the state government.

In his letter of October 27 to Mr Gandhi, despatched through Mr Lal Thanhawla, the TNV leader had agreed to seek a settlement within the framework of the constitution, but demanded as a condition, immediate dissolution of the CPM led ministry.

Replying to Mr Hrangkhawi, Mr Lal Thanhawla informed him that elections were scheduled for February 2, leaving little time to initiate the dialogue seeking a settlement. But he gave enough indication that both the Prime Minister as well as the Union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, were willing to bite, assuring the TNV leader that the Congress will take the initiative for starting a dialogue after the election, "whether we come to power or not."

In view of the unprincipled deal the Congress had with the TNV, the evidence conclusively proves that the mass killings by the TNV (leading to declaring of the whole state as a disturbed area inviting central forces and the army of the eve of elections) were tacitly encouraged, and (became) a useful electoral weapon for the Congress, Mr Namboodiripad said.

The letters unearthed by the Mizoram bi-weekly demand an explanation from Mr Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress leadership, the CPM leader underlined, and appealed to all opposition parties and democrats to expose and condemn this heinous conspiracy.

**'New Age' Article Scores CPI-M, Response Noted**  
46001069 *Madras THE HINDU in English*  
23 Sep 88 p 10

[Text] A polemical exchange has surfaced between the two communist parties, reviving a debate on issues that have divided the two. The dispute has been sparked by a scathing attack from the CPI on the CPI(M) for what it has dubbed the latter's "narrow-minded attitude" to communist unity.

In an article in the forthcoming issue of the CPI's party organ *New Age*, Mr Rajacekhara Reddi, a member of the party's central executive committee maintains that the communist movement could become strong in this country only if the two parties are united. But while "a limited degree of cooperation and unity of action have been in existence since 1980, no further progress has been made during these nearly eight years" and "in fact, of late, some strains have also begun to develop."

CPI's charge: Making quite clear, that in the CPI's opinion, all the hurdles to this unity are on the other side, the article goes on to say that the CPI made its attitude to the question of unity on a principled basis "amply clear in its Bhatinda Congress (1978) resolution...." and "visualized the emergence of a united communist party as a perspective and wants to work towards it."

The CPI(M) on the other hand, in the words of the CPI's Mr Reddi, believes that "there is no question of the unity of the communist movement" and that the CPI(M) is the only communist party while the CPI is at best a left party, a social democratic party. The article says that "with such a hostile attitude to communist unity and to the CPI, it is no surprise that the leaders of the CPI(M) wish and work for the weakening of the CPI."

Maintaining that the CPI's contention is that "there is need and room enough in India for both the CPI and the CPI(M) to grow strong at the expense of the bourgeois parties without weakening each other," the article accuses the CPI(M) of believing that "the road to a strong communist party lies through the weakening of the CPI."

Must have mass character: The article argues that the question of unity of the communist movement in India is of "great topical importance" in the context of the "present difficult situation in our country." So long as the communist movement does not "acquire a mass character in a major part of India, in the vast Hindi belt in particular, and is confined to two or three states on the periphery, it will remain a marginal factor in Indian politics. It is the unhappy reality today."

The article is intended as a rejoinder to the CPI(M) leader, Mr Harkishen Singh Surjeet's remarks in Kerala earlier and has, on the basis of these remarks, taken issue with Mr Surjeet for an "amazing defence of the split in the Indian communist movement" which "would shock not only communists but many other progressive sections who desire a strong and powerful communist party to take the country out of its present morass."

The "negative attitude of the CPI(M)," says Mr Reddi, which "glorifies the split in the communist movement in order to perpetuate it," is the main obstacle to communist unity. "They want unity with the CPI up to a point and not beyond." There is a coordination committee of the two parties at the national level, but the repeated proposal of the CPI that such committees be set up at the state and district levels has been rejected, Mr Reddi states. He goes on to charge that the CPI(M) does "not want to proceed from the areas of agreement between the two parties but wants to harp on and magnify the areas of disagreement."

Surjeet's position: While the CPI(M)'s position will be set out in a detailed rejoinder to be published in the party's journal *People's Democracy* shortly, CPI(M)

politburo member. Mr Surjeet explained to The Hindu some elements of his party's response to the CPI's perceptions voiced in the New Age article. Reacting to the CPI's contention on communist unity, Mr Surjeet said: The people would like communist unity to be based on programmatic and ideological unity. There is no meaning otherwise. Unlike the bourgeois parties which frequently united and split, communist unity would have to be founded on the unity of ideological and programmatic positions.

The CPI's position on certain important issues like its assessment of the character of the Indian state and its formulation, that national democracy and a non-capitalist path of development could be applied to India were yet to be clarified. "Our assessment has been that the Indian state is a bourgeois-landlord state, led by the big bourgeoisie. The CPI said that it is a bourgeois state and also denied both the landlord-bourgeois alliance and the dominant position of the big bourgeoisie. Let them explain how the big bourgeoisie have grown in this country.... Let them also explain why radical land reform has not been undertaken if there is no bourgeois-landlord alliance working..." Mr Surjeet said.

Secondly, the CPI's formulation that the objective of revolution in the Indian context would be a national democracy and a non-capitalist path was a formulation which had misled several parties and been wrongly applied to India. It had been the basis of the CPI's later tactic of collaboration with the Congress(I). Without resolving these basic issues and differences in ideological position, how was it possible to postulate unity of the communist movement?

United Action: "At the moment, united action by the two communist parties is important and that is reflected in the national coordination movement, joint action by our trade unions and peasant movements at the moment the emphasis should be on united action," Mr Surjeet maintained. The CPI was "trying to bypass" these unresolved ideological questions but without resolving these programmatic issues, the question of unity could not be addressed. For the present, "let us not hamper the united work that is now being done by the two parties," Mr Surjeet said.

**CPI-M General Secretary Rejects Left Unity Idea**  
46001077 New Delhi PATRIOT in English  
26 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Cochin, Sept 25 (PTI)—CPI-M General Secretary EMS Namboodiripad today rejected veteran Congress leader Kamalapati Tripathi's suggestion that the Congress and the left parties form a National Progressive Front to counter the challenge posed by the National Front formed by the opposition parties.

Answering questions at a news conference here, he said the CPI-M considered the Congress as its "class enemy" and had all along been against that party. In fact, the

undivided CPI and the CPI-M had been the only parties to oppose the Congress all these years, he said. The CPI which had once aligned with the Congress had now realized its mistake, he added.

Welcoming the decision of the four opposition parties—Janata, Lok Dal, Congress-S and Jan Morcha to form a united party, Mr Namboodiripad said this party could provide an alternative to the Congress at the Centre provided it stood for nationalism and eschewed partisanship and casteism. The BJP's exclusion was all the more "welcome," he said.

Asked if the CPI-M would forge an alliance or strive for an electoral understanding with the new party, he said "let the elections come and then we will decide."

On the charge by Kerala PCC President that the CPI-M in Kerala was politicizing the administration and law and order had broken down, he said, "it is Rajiv Gandhi who has been politicizing the administration in Punjab. In Punjab, there has been not even a day without some people being killed and Mr Antony has nothing to say on this.

Questioned if there would be any change in the CPI-M's approach to the Congress in the context of the projected visit of the Soviet leader, M Gorbachev, to India later this year, he said it was the CPI-M in India that deliberated and decided on its policy and approach to other political parties.

**Full Support for 'Ambitious' Defense R&D**  
46001057 Madras THE HINDU in English  
12 Sep 88 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Sept. 11. The Government intends to support the ambitious Defence Research and Development programme despite the severe resource crunch. This is indicated by the Army's recent decision to acquire the indigenously-made Prithvi and Trishul missile systems and the possibility that the Indian Air Force will also order for the latter system. This commits the Army to a major indigenous system as well as keeping Rs 600 crores of its funds in line for the acquisition that is to begin in 1991.

**MBT cost estimates revised:** In another important decision, the Defence Ministry has revised the cost estimates and the number of pre-production series Arjun Main Battle Tanks. According to informed sources, the initial sanction of Rs. 280 crores has been raised by another appropriation of Rs. 288 crores. Earlier plans called for the production of 12 tanks as prototypes and 20 as pre-production series. Now the total of pre-production series tanks which will undergo field testing with a field formation of armoured corps has gone up to 40. Currently prototypes of the tank are undergoing testing at various levels.

The Central Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) has currently targeted the development of the Arjun Mk. 1 with a 1400 h.p. MTU engine. Its armour, hull, suspension and tracks as well as its armament, turret structure and an integrated fire control for its pre-production series beginning January 1989, are indigenously developed. The CVRDE approach is to get the maximum of indigenous technology on to the Mk. 1, but wherever necessary, it will coordinate with the Defence public sector units like BHEL for foreign collaboration for sub-systems. If all works out according to schedule, the MK2 or 3 will begin series production sometime in 1991.

**Requirements:** Ostensibly, a steel hulk, the modern main battle tank is a complex bit of machinery requiring considerable achievements in technology and fabrication. It must be able to fire accurately on the move and have a variety of equipment that enhances its survivability in the modern battlefield and its lethality. The latter task is attained through a heavier 120 mm gun, with a better charge ammunition and opto-electronic equipment that enables it to fight in all weather, day and night.

**Systems design and integration work:** The overall systems design and integration work for the tank are being done by the CVRDE at Avadi near Madras while other laboratories like ARDE and ERDL in Pune, IRDE in Dehra Dun and DMRL in Hyderabad, have been involved in the development of subsystems.

The indigenous engine under development is an air-cooled 120 degrees V design, 12 cylinder turbo-charged high specific output diesel engine. It aims to meet the Army's target requirement of a compact armoured fighting vehicle power-pack with the potential to raise the output to 1500 h.p. Extensive use of aluminum alloys, coupled with aircooling has resulted in considerable weight saving and the modular design makes for easy serviceability.

**Advantages:** The indigenous semi-automatic, heavy duty high power transmission-cum-steering system provides for four-forward and two reverse speeds. The hydrodynamic torque converter facilitates easy marching, steep gradient climbing and smooth, jerk-free gear changes.

The tank is provided with a hydro-pneumatic suspension system which provides large wheel travel, non-linear springing and high damping characteristics. The system offers improved mobility, increased speeds over rough terrain and improved fire-on-the-move capability.

The integrated fire control system, which will give an effective fire-on-the-move capability to the tanks, comprises a stabilised main sight for the gunner laser range-finder ballistic computer, thermal imager for night sight, stabilised panoramic sight for the commander, standby sighting telescopes and episcopes for different crew members.

**Redesignation of Arjun:** Originally postulated as the MBT-70 and the MBT-80 project, the Arjun will, in all probability be the MBT-90. Even now, there is a six-month slippage in the schedule since the pre-production series tanks which were due to join squadron service this year, will now do so only sometime next year. However, with the major design and development problems licked, the basic issues that have to be addressed are the creation of facilities to produce the tanks and the investment decisions.

**Janata Crisis Resolved, Unification Panel Planned**  
46001075 New Delhi PATRIOT in English  
23 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] The crisis in the Janata Party has been resolved with the warring groups headed by Mr Chandra Shekhar and Mr Ramakrishna Hegde jointly authorizing Jan Morcha Leader V. P. Singh to constitute a steering committee to work out the modalities of the unification of the centrist parties.

The party's Central Parliamentary Board, at its crucial meeting on Thursday, adopted a brief resolution welcoming the proposal for the merger of the Janata, the Lok Dal, the Congress and the Jan Morcha into a unified party.

Consequently, the board decided to call off the controversial national executive meeting slated for Friday and the national convention at Bangalore on 30 September.

With the decision of the board to call off both the meetings, the head-on confrontation that had developed between the two groups which at one time threatened to split the party, also ended.

The operative part of the brief resolution of the parliamentary board reads as follows: "The parliamentary board recommends that as a nucleus of the unified party a steering committee may be constituted in consultation with all concerned, by V. P. Singh who will be its chairman. The committee will finalize the policies and programmes and organizational structure of the party and the chairman is authorized to take decisions on all other related matters, including appointment of the office-bearers".

The resolution welcomed the 26 July proposals prepared by the joint meeting of the leaders of the Janata, the Lok Dal, the Congress-S and the Jan Morcha where it was decided that Samajwadi Janata Dal would be formally launched by 15 August. It called upon the other constituent parties to take identical decisions expeditiously.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, board chairman Madhu Dandavate said that the four constituent parties would now hold a national convention in Bangalore on

11 October to formally launch the unified party. The day happens to be the birth anniversary of late Jayaprakash Narayan who inspired the formation of the original Janata Party.

Mr Dandavate said the resolution was passed unanimously. It was proposed by Mr Chandra Shekhar and seconded by Mr Hegde.

Party leaders maintained that Mr V. P. Singh had already been informed of the decision. Mr Dandavate said the steering committee will be constituted before the Bangalore convention.

The board decision in effect, means that the proposals of Mr Chandra Shekhar had got precedence over those of Mr Hegde. The stand of Mr Chandra Shekhar that the Janata's merger in the new party be deferred till the steering committee works out the modalities and the structure carried the day.

The name of the proposed party was not discussed although the resolution referred to the 26 July proposal that the new party be named the Samajwadi Janata Dal. Asked to affirm whether the name SJD stood, Mr Dandavate remained non-committal.

The leadership issue also remained open. Mr Chandra Shekhar himself hinted at it when he told newsmen that he had no objection to Mr V. P. Singh becoming the leader if the constituents of the merging parties so decide. As of today, Mr Chandra Shekhar has accepted Mr V. P. Singh as the leader of the proposed steering committee in which the Jan Morcha leader would have the status of an "umpire." The Hegde group is however, insisting on Mr V. P. Singh being named chairman of the steering committee as also leader of the proposed party.

Party sources said the senior pro-Hegde leaders like Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr Dandavate, Mr George Fernandes, Mr Jaipal Reddy and others were extremely 'unhappy' over Mr Hegde's "self-defeating" agreement with Mr Chandra Shekhar.

#### **Sikh Student Leader Urges Gandhi To Declare Amnesty**

46001062 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English  
16 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Chandigarh, Sept. 15—The detained All-India Sikh Students Federation general secretary, Mr Harinder Singh Sandhu, has urged the Prime Minister to declare a general amnesty to ease the tension in Punjab. Mr Sandhu, under detention in the Jodhpur Central Jail since June 1984 on charges of waging a war against the state, has made the plea for a general amnesty in an open letter to the Prime Minister. The letter, running into 17 long pages, was obviously smuggled from the jail and

delivered at an underground office of the militant organization in Amritswar recently. This correspondent managed to get a copy of the letter from the AISSF sources.

The AISSF leader's letter to the Prime Minister is most hard-hitting against the Centre in general, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi in particular. Mr Sandhu (32), who was arrested from the Golden Temple by the Army during Operation Bluestar, is one of the main ideologues of the current militant movement in Punjab. He was one of the members of the kitchen cabinet of Bhindranwale from 1982 till Operation Bluestar.

Besides demanding amnesty in Punjab, Mr Sandhu has also urged the Prime Minister to adequately rehabilitate and compensate the victims of the November riots and those Army personnel who had deserted during Operation Bluestar. The AISSF leader has pointed out in his letter that over 10,000 Sikhs are at present languishing in jails. He has demanded that they be released immediately.

Mr Sandhu has also urged the Prime Minister to repeal all the draconian laws enforced in Punjab at present. The CRPF should be withdrawn from the State and the ban on the entry of foreigners should be lifted, he has urged. Besides, the general secretary has demanded the state repression in Punjab should stop and the Government should drop the beautification plan of the Golden Temple.

He has mentioned in his letter: "The corridor plan is a vicious military scheme to make the Golden Temple vulnerable for future operations by security forces. Stop your bulldozers and shelve this plan."

The AISSF leader has hinted that his organization along with the military Damdami Taksal and a section of the Unified Akali Dal led by Mr Simranjit Singh Mann will be ready to have a dialogue with the Centre provided the steps suggested by him and carried out first.

#### **National Front Asked To Oppose Pepsi-Cola Project**

46001070 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English  
21 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 20—Mr George Fernandes, Janata Party leader, called on the National Front of Opposition parties to take up the Pepsi collaboration as an issue for its forthcoming nationwide agitation.

In a letter to Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, convenor of the National Front, Mr Fernandes said, "the Pepsi project symbolizes the rot that Mr Rajiv Gandhi's Government is and, therefore, should be made an important issue of our campaign. We should also involve the indigenous industry, particularly the small and tiny sector".



Mr Fernandes, who as a Minister in the Janata Party Government had got the collaboration with the Coca Cola scrapped, said in a statement today that the Hind Mazdoor Kisan Panchayat had decided some two years ago "to take the battle against Pepsi to the streets, and we shall keep our promise, no matter what price we have to pay".

#### Shame

He said: "the clearance of the Pepsi Cola project is a shame which the Government may not even survive long enough to live down. It is one more act against our national interest by a Prime Minister who has mortgaged himself to multinationals for the considerations that are no longer secret. The complete lack of sensitivity in the Prime Minister for the people of India once again shows up in this decision which will, among other things, destroy India's soft drink industry."

Welcoming the clearance of the Pepsi project, the Punjab Governor, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray yesterday said the project was "a boom for the fruit and vegetable growers of the State."

When operational, the plant will use about 100,000 tons of fruit and vegetables annually.

In a statement, Mr Ray said the project would benefit cultivators not only in Punjab but in neighboring Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir as well.

Our Staff Correspondent in Chandigarh writes: Mr S. S. Johl, chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices has welcomed the clearance of the Pepsi project by the Union Cabinet. "Punjab is set to go in for production of high value crops, which need marketing and processing at a sophisticated and larger scale," he said and added that "Pepsi would bring in capital as well as technology."

Although only a small portion of the potential production of fruits and vegetable in the State will be consumed by Pepsi, it sets the stage for further development, Mr Johl believed. Besides, the project will generate income and employment and improve wages in the State.

The Punjab Additional Chief Secretary, Mr Manohar Singh Gill who had been fighting for the clearance of the project for the last two years said: "I am personally very pleased. The Government of India has shown faith in Punjab. With the clearance of the project, the house of JRD Tata will be arriving in Punjab for the first time and I am sure other big international and national groups will follow suit. The Pepsi project is going to boost the economy of not only Punjab but India as a whole. Within two years of its formal launching, we are going to earn

dollars," he said. Among others who expressed happiness about the Pepsi clearance were the Bharati Kisan Union, the country's largest non-political farmers organization and the Chancellor of the Punjab Agriculture University.

The Politburo of the CPI(M), criticizing the project clearance, said "this step would further mortgage the Indian economy to the multinational corporations."

The central secretariat of the CPI bemoaned the "craze of the Government for foreign technology and increasing collaboration with multinationals which impedes the development of national self-reliance."

In this case, it was also a "security risk" because the Pepsico project was to be located in Punjab where the political situation was "extremely difficult."

#### Papers Report on Launching of National Front

##### Opening Rally

46001064 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English  
18 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Madras, September 17. The seven-party National Front was today launched at a massive rally organised by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) here.

The Front chairman and the Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N. T. Rama Rao, declared on the occasion that the first proof of the Front's power and popularity should be the restoration of the DMK rule in Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Mr M. Karunanidhi.

Addressing a mammoth rally on the Marina beach, Mr Rama Rao observed that Tamil Nadu should fire the opening shot "in bringing about a total transformation" in the system of governance in the country. "In the past the Congress freed the country and now the time has come to free the country from Congress misrule," he said.

Earlier, the Front presidium at a meeting held at the DMK headquarters called for assembly elections well before the end of the current spell of President's rule in Tamil Nadu. Expressing resentment at the failure of the Centre to announce the date of elections in the state so far, the National Front in a resolution said the Centre was "desperately trying to prolong" President's rule which was "nothing but Congress rule through the backdoor."

Six other resolutions on various issues such as the defamation bill, Sri Lanka situation, Bihar earthquake, Assam floods and the Centre's "discrimination" towards non-Congress governments were adopted by the Front presidium comprising leaders of the Jan Morcha, the Janata Party, the Lok Dal, the Congress (S), the DMK, Telugu Desam and the Asom Gana Parishad.

Briefing newsmen following the presidium meeting, Mr V. P. Singh, who is the convener of the Front, said the presidium decided to wage a struggle to force the government to withdraw the defamation bill. The agitation would be launched on October 2 by observing it as "save freedom day." This would be followed by week-long meetings and rallies in various parts of the country. October 11, which is Jayaprakash Narayan's birthday, would be observed as a "protest day" when Front volunteers in various state capitals would burn copies of the black bill.

Describing the Centre's move as "a crude attempt to chain and censor the press," a Front resolution said the provisions of the defamation bill, coming soon after the 59th constitution amendment, reminded the people of the dark days of emergency. "The bill cannot be amended or mended. It can only be ended and buried nine fathoms deep," it said.

On Sri Lanka, Mr Singh said, the presidium reiterated the call for ceasefire "in real and genuine terms." The current five-day ceasefire would not lead to a solution. The resolution said the government had rendered the provision of ceasefire into "a cheap gimmick" and the present ceasefire was "a clear attempt to conceal the realities of the situation and a further attempt to impose a solution according to the needs of President Jayewardene's designs on the Tamils of Sri Lanka."

Another resolution expressed resentment at the increasingly "intolerant and discriminatory" attitude of the Centre towards non-Congress state governments. Proposals and projects submitted by these governments remained pending with the Centre for years together.

Referring to the flood situation in Assam, the Front took serious exception to the failure of the Prime Minister to grant an interview of the AGP MPs who sought to discuss with him the situation in the state. The resolution noted that the Centre had announced only Rs 40 crores for the flood relief and rehabilitation programme against Assam's demand exceeding Rs 700 crores.

The presidium discussed a set of guidelines on the political conduct to be adopted by the constituent parties and its functionaries. The ten-point guidelines stressed the need for adopting a political conduct that was conducive to co-operation among the Front constituents and co-ordinated action. For instance, it was pointed out that leaders of various constituents should not criticise one another in any public forum or through press statements.

Apart from Mr Singh and Mr Rama Rao, those who attended the meeting included the Janata Party president, Mr Ajit Singh, the Lok Dal Leader, Mr H. N. Bahuguna, the chief ministers of Haryana (Mr Devi Lal), Karnataka (Mr S. R. Bommai) and Assam (Mr P. K. Mahanta), Mr Arif Mohammad Khan, Mr Biju Patnaik, Mr P. Upendra, Mr K. P. Unnikrishnan and Mr Murali Maran.

A conspicuous absentee was the former Karnataka chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde. Regretting his inability to attend the launching of the Front due to prior commitments, Mr Hegde in a message described the occasion as "a landmark" in the political history of the country and a "cornerstone" of opposition unity.

Meanwhile, the black-flag demonstration by the AIADMK faction led by Mr V. R. Nedunchezian against Mr Devi Lal, dubbed as "Hindi fanatic", turned out to be a farce. The AIADMK men ended up showing black-flags to the wrong man.

The AIADMK men led by Mr Nedunchezian were waiting with black flags yesterday evening near the airport for Mr Devi Lal. When the demonstrators spotted a convoy of cars, they raised slogans and showed black flags. But they had mistaken Mr Mohanta for Mr Devi Lal. The police took into custody over 200 demonstrators, including Mr Nedunchezian.

When Mr Devi Lal arrived he did not find any demonstrators. Refuting the AIADMK charge, Mr Devi Lal observed that Tamil was being taught as second language in schools in Haryana. "It is surprising why some elements in Tamil Nadu are still projecting me as a fanatic. If I had any fanaticism, I would not have come to Tamil Nadu," he said.

#### **Bharatiya Janata Stand**

46001064 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English  
17 Sep 88 p 9

[Article by Anand K. Sahay: "BJP Refuses to Endorse Front"]

[Text] New Delhi, September 16. In what amounts to a formal notice of displeasure, the BJP is understood to have turned down the National Front's request for a message of greeting for its inaugural function in Madras tomorrow.

The NF had decided not to invite the left parties or the BJP to participate in the function according to its original plan, but to seek a message from them. It was thought that this would make ideologically opposed parties back the NF's launching even though they were not part of it.

However, the NF will now have only messages from the CPI and the CPM to show for its efforts to bring prospective adjustment partners together, even if only through messages.

Sources close to the BJP leadership yesterday said the NF call for a message amounted to "hollow formality", as its functioning until now lacked any real substance.

The sources said the formation and activities of the NF till now had not advanced the cause of creating confidence in the electorate about either the unity of the opposition or its credibility.

The sources also expressed unhappiness with the 71-point NF programme. They regarded it as a jumble of the doctrines of the Congress and other parties without any serious element that would attract to it a party like the BJP.

Before the BJP formally endorses the NF, it has said it would like certain changes of its liking made in the party's manifesto, especially on the question of the treatment of the minorities. The BJP feels that the NF too, like the Congress, has chosen to continue the policy of "pandering to the minorities," the BJP wants reservations for the minorities scrapped.

BJP leaders say they would like the NF's style and substance to unfold further before they attempt a characterisation of the centrist combine. The leaders do not hide their feeling of disappointment with the NF so far.

Meanwhile, the BJP has already mounted organisation preparations to face the eventuality of having to go it alone in the next general elections. This, it expects, will strengthen its bargaining position if it came to adjustment exercises, and also exert some pressure on NF constituents.

The party's overall perspective on the current state of opposition unity efforts, as well as the perceived threat from the left, is expected to be articulated at the meeting of its executive in Ahmedabad early next month.

Seeing that the two Communist parties in their messages to the NF have warned against association with "communal and divisive forces", prominent BJP sources said the NF should be careful not to be hustled or pressurised by the communists.

The BJP feels communists "always resort to pressure tactics."

The BJP's other bugbear is the Muslim League. Apart from wider considerations, the reason BJP rejected initial NF soundings for participation in the Madras meeting is the likely presence of the League, which, in Tamil Nadu, happens to be an ally of the DMK, an NF constituent.

### **CPI Goodwill Message**

46001064 New Delhi PATRIOT in English  
16 Sep 88 p 6

[Text] The CPI in its goodwill message to the inaugural mass rally of the seven-party National Front on Saturday, has expressed its hope that the Front would address itself to the important economic, political and foreign policy issues and develop relations with the Left parties on the basis of a well-defined programme.

The message sent by CPI National Council Secretary M. Farooqi on behalf of the party to Front convener V. P. Singh in the absence of general secretary C. Rajeswara Rao from the Capital, it is learnt, emphasised that the people were not interested in a mere substitute for the Congress Government at the Centre but were seeking an effective national alternative.

This alternative should genuinely serve the cause of the country's masses, who are reeling under the Government's retrograde economic policy, communalists attitude and divisiveness, the message stated.

The CPI also focused on the Opposition's need to declare adherence to an anti-imperialist and non-aligned foreign policy, with friendly relations with socialist countries. Incidentally, the non-Left opposition has, so far, not spelt out its foreign policy position clearly.

The message conveyed the need for a new and progressive thrust to the country's economic policy and remedying the current policies which were causing a galloping price rise and rampant unemployment, while corruption in high places has reached phenomenal levels.

### **Papers on Rivalry Between Sonia Gandhi and Arun Nehru**

#### **Plans for Rae Bareli**

46001058 New Delhi PATRIOT in English  
18 Sep 88 p 1

[Article by R. S. Rawat: "Sonia Gandhi May Contest From Rae Bareli"]

[Text] Lucknow, Sept 17—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's wife Sonia Gandhi is likely to make her debut in politics from the Rae Bareli parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh.

Already, a survey has been conducted by a 15-member team of the Intelligence Bureau of the Central Government to assess Mrs Sonia Gandhi's chances if she chose to contest the seat, which is represented by Jan Morcha leader Arun Nehru in the Lok Sabha, according to a top IB source.

The IB survey indicates that the chances of Mrs Sonia Gandhi winning the seat by a high margin is very likely. This pronouncement comes as a surprise considering the present run of events. Mr Arun Nehru, however, has got very poor showing in the survey.

The IB team covered all Assembly, segments of the parliamentary seat including Tiloi, Salon, Sareni and Bachhrawa. Its report has been sent to Delhi for analysis.

A majority of the members comprising the IB team are the same who had surveyed the electoral chances of the Congress at the Allahabad by-election. They had given a poor rating to the Congress which was in sharp contrast to the State Intelligence report which said the Congress would win.

Union Communications Minister Veer Bahadur Singh, State Minister of State for Harijan and Social Welfare Deepa Kaul, State Congress Committee chief Balram Singh Yadav and Mr Satish Sharma have reportedly been assigned the task of cultivate the constituency.

Mrs Sonia Gandhi, on a visit to Amethi recently, had avoided a tour of Rae Bareilly probably so as not to allow the Opposition to get any wind of the move.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. D. Tiwari, some Union Ministers and AICC general secretary Ghulam Nabi Azad are concentrating on the development of Rae Bareilly. Many new welfare schemes are being implemented there at a fast pace.

Several Congressmen are reportedly demanding that Mr Rajiv Gandhi shift to Rae Bareilly, which was once represented by his father Feroze Gandhi.

However, it is highly likely that he would continue to contest from Amethi and offer the Rae Bareilly seat to Sonia.

According to the survey, in Amethi as well as in Rae Bareilly, the Jan Morcha stock has gone down considerably after the Syed Modi murder scandal in which connection, Morcha leader Sanjay Singh has been arrested.

Mr Arun Nehru, on the other hand is not a force there at all. The electorate appears not to be happy with him, preferring Mr Rajiv Gandhi or Mrs Sonia Gandhi to be their representative.

The Congress leaders have learnt about the move and are using every opportunity to win the seat. The presence of a host of Congress leaders at the Feroze Gandhi anniversary celebrations in Rae Bareilly on 11 September has given enough hint in this regard.

### Nehru Plot Alleged

46001058 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English  
13 Sep 88 p 4

[Text] Bombay, Sept. 12: The former Maharashtra chief minister, Mr A. R. Antulay, who was inducted into the ruling party on Thursday, said a "misunderstanding" with the party president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, over the former Union minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru, had kept him out of the Congress(I).

Mr Antulay told newsmen at his residence today that he had warned Mr Gandhi about Mr Arun Nehru's "malafide" intentions. "I knew even during Mrs Indira Gandhi's lifetime that Mr Arun Nehru had his eyes on the 'throne' of Delhi. I know it for a fact that he wanted to put his own persons in key positions throughout India, so that at the appropriate moment Rajiv Gandhi could be replaced by Arun Nehru.

"I thought I owed it to my leader to tell him the factual position. Unfortunately, there was a little misunderstanding with Rajivji, who thought I was trying to create a rift between him and his cousin," the former chief minister said.

Mr Antulay, who will be leaving for New Delhi tomorrow, said there was no significance in his being inducted into the party at this juncture. He said the party president had magnanimously considered his request, followed by a meeting with Mr Gandhi a week later on July 29, to rejoin the Congress(I).

Asked whether his reference to the "throne" of Delhi signified an allusion to dynastic rule, Mr Antulay said he was like a member of the Nehru household and knew the potential of Mr Rajiv Gandhi even before he joined politics. In fact, after Sanjay Gandhi's tragic death, I was the first to publicly invite him to join politics," he said.

Asked in this contest why a strong party was suffering so many electoral reverses, Mr Antulay pointed out that even during Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's time, the Congress(I) had lost prestigious seats to Mr Minoo Masani and Acharya Kripalani and even Kamaraj could both win an Assembly seat.

Mr Antulay announced that he would dismantle the Bharatiya Congress floated by him on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections, and merge it with the Congress(I). He said he would furnish a list of the party rank and file to the AICC(I) general secretary, Mr K. N. Singh.

### Papers Report, Comment on Defamation Bill Withdrawal

#### Prime Minister's Statement

46001074 Madras THE HINDU in English  
23 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 22. This is the text of the Prime Minister's Press statement:

The Defamation Bill, 1988, was brought forward to protect the individual from defamatory speeches, writings and actions and to provide adequate and timely redress to the aggrieved. The Bill seeks to codify the existing law on the subject and to take it forward in some areas. Defamation, as defined in the Bill, is not an issue between Government and the Press, but an issue between individual and individual, between a person aggrieved and a person accused. The Bill attempts to reconcile the rights of an individual with the right to freedom of expression of another.

A free Press is an integral part of the inner strength and dynamism of our democracy. Without a free Press, there can be no democracy. The imperishable values of our freedom struggle have gone into the making of the Press in India. We uphold this legacy. We shall continue to do so. Our commitment to the freedom of the Press is total. We have no intention of curbing, in any way, the freedom of the Press.

The freedom and rights of the individual are equally sacred. It is this that makes the issue of defamation a serious issue.

The Bill seeks to resolve the issue in accordance with the basic principles of our Constitution and the laws. It has, however, aroused misapprehensions and misgivings. The press and sections of the public have expressed their concern.

We are alive to these concerns. We draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, who always responded to democratic expression of opinion. We, therefore, offered an unconditional dialogue on the subject. Some organizations and individuals have responded to this offer.

We feel, however, that there should be a wider and fuller national debate. In order to facilitate such a debate, and in keeping with our heritage and traditions, we have decided not to make the Defamation Bill, 1988 into law. The issue of defamation remains.

It is our earnest hope that concerned citizens, jurists and the media will participate in the national debate on the issue of defamation. In course of time, Government may, if necessary, create a suitable forum to carry forward, the dialogue in a spirit of understanding and cooperation. A solution based on a national consensus will strengthen the institutions of our Republic.

#### **Gandhi Advisers Scored**

46001074 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English  
23 Sep 88 p 9

[Text] The Prime Minister's decision to drop the Defamation Bill will be widely welcomed in the country. The decision is liable to partisan interpretation. It is as possible to see it as a victory for journalists and others who saw the Bill as a most dangerous attack on the

freedom of the press as to see it as a demonstration of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's sensitivity to public opinion. In fact, it is both. It is certainly a victory for the journalists who have seldom been as united as on the issue of the Defamation Bill. They took the stand that they would not engage in a dialogue with the government till the Bill had been dropped. They have had their way. The Prime Minister, on his part, has shown good sense in bowing to the opposition which was by no means confined to the journalistic community. Opposition came from the legal fraternity as much as it came from the print media. It is difficult to think of a leading lawyer who has had a good word to say about the Bill. Indeed, it would not be wide of the mark to say that there was a near unanimity even among the sitting judges of the Supreme Court and various high courts that the measure was misconceived and so bad in purely legal terms that it could not possibly withstand scrutiny. It is to Mr Rajiv Gandhi's credit that he has recognised not only the power but also the legitimacy of this opposition, though we, like many others, would wish that such a situation would never have been allowed to rise.

The Prime Minister has said that the issue of defamation remains to be tackled and called for a national debate so that the rights of the individual (not to be defamed) and freedom of the press can be suitably reconciled. On the face of it, this is a legitimate formulation which it would be wrong to cavil at in the context of his decision to drop the Bill. But the reality is that the atmosphere has been so vitiated that the worthwhile debate with the hope of a national consensus is just inconceivable. The debate should have been initiated before the Bill was finalized or at least before it was sought to be pushed through Parliament in a most ham-handed manner. It is too late in the day to ask for such a debate. The matter has to be dropped totally at least till the next general election. The country is already in the grip of election fever. Opposition parties are busy putting their act together. Whether or not they succeed in this enterprise, their energies will be directed towards just one end—discrediting the Congress government in general and the Prime Minister in particular. A substantial section of the intelligentsia, especially the journalists and the lawyers, are ranged with and behind the opposition.

They are not likely to change their attitude in the coming months. Mrs Gandhi had to live with a similar combination against her. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has no option but to do the same. He has cut his losses. Persistence with the Bill would have given his opponents a powerful stick to beat him with. In fact, they must be disappointed over the turn of events. They would have loved the confrontation between him and the press to go on. They must feel cheated. But beyond cutting his losses, nothing else is in the Prime Minister's reach. He would be well advised to divert his attention to building his defence and, devising if possible, a strategy whereby he can seize the initiative on social and economic issues of interest to the common people.

In the context of this happy development, it would appear to be in bad form to ask for action against those who misled the Prime Minister on this question. Even otherwise it would not make much sense to do so since it now transpires that almost all leading members of the Cabinet were party to the Bill in one way or another. But the issue of the competence and bona fides of the advice to the Prime Minister which this episode raises will not go away. Some individuals will see in this statement an attempt on our part to exonerate Mr Rajiv Gandhi for his share of responsibility for the disgraceful proposal. But we are guided by larger considerations. India's Prime Minister has to deal with scores of problems every day; he cannot possibly go into details; he has to depend on advice of those he trusts; they owe it to him to offer sincere and competent advice and not to cater to his whims and prejudices. This Prime Minister happens to be relatively young and inexperienced in the business of politics. As such the responsibility of his advisers increases. In this case, as in many others, they have not lived up to their obligation. He cannot sack the whole lot. But he can create a new structure on lines of the American National Security Council on which he can rely for assessment and advice. Men who could not anticipate that the popular reaction to the Bill and the manner in which it was sought to be enacted into law would be furious do not deserve to be trusted ever again on a sensitive issue. A politician is nothing if he is not able to anticipate the popular response to a move. Mr Rajiv Gandhi's leading ministers have failed to live up to this elementary test. By the same token, those around Mr Rajiv Gandhi who have had to cope with the hardliners in the Cabinet and done it successfully, deserve to be commended. They have earned their keep.

**Paper Reports Gandhi 21 Sep Speeches in Punjab**  
46001072 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English  
22 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Sept. 21: The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, addressing massive rallies in different parts of Punjab today, announced that panchayat elections would be held in the trouble-torn state shortly to determine whether the atmosphere was conducive to holding Assembly elections to usher in a popular government.

Declaring that there would be no let-up in the drive against terrorists, the Prime Minister announced that he would soon invite Opposition leaders from the state to attend an all-party meeting in New Delhi in a renewed effort to solve the vexed Punjab problem. The Prime Minister said he was ready to talk to "everyone" in this regard.

Mr Gandhi, visiting Punjab for the first time in three years, complimented the people of the state for standing like a rock against the extremist onslaught, which he described as an attempt to break the "centuries-old bonds of love" among the people.

The Prime Minister arrived at Adhampur near Jalandhar this morning and travelled by car to Goindwal in Amritsar district, a distance of about 60 km, for his first public meeting. From there he went to Jalandhar town on address another rally, before returning to Adhampur. From there he flew by helicopter to Bhatinda, and then drove to the historic town of Jaitu in Faridkot district for his last engagement in the state. After this, he returned to Bhatinda, from where he flew back to New Delhi.

At both his Goindwal and Jaitu rallies, Mr Gandhi said he had directed the Punjab Governor, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray, to hold panchayat and district board elections in the state as soon as possible. These bodies have been controlled by the Centre for over a year, ever since the state was brought under President's rule in May 1987.

**All praise for valiant people of Punjab**

At Goindwal, after laying the foundation stone of a Rs 240-crore newsprint plant of the Punjab Agro-Industries Ltd, Mr Gandhi laid stress on the point that a popular, elected government was necessary for progress. "In Delhi, we make plans behind closed doors. But these closed doors do not allow the winds of opinion from outside to enter. We know that there will be no real progress till the power to make the plans is given to the people."

He praised the "valiant people of Punjab" and said in the last few years terrorism had led to the state's economy "coming to a standstill." He added: "Terrorism and progress cannot go together, and if we are to move forward we must stamp out terrorism from the state."

"I am not against the Sikhs or against Punjab, but against the terrorists who have no religion and who will be crushed at all costs," he said. He recalled that "brave Punjabis" had always come to the rescue of the nation in its "darkest hours," and that the three wars India had fought after Independence were sufficient proof of this. "The country turned to you in every hour of crisis and you always gave the lead to the nation, be it in the social, religious or economic field."

The Prime Minister acknowledged that in some cases, the security forces, who were under great pressure combating the terrorists' challenge, might have harassed some innocent persons. The state administration must ensure that an atmosphere of distrust was thus not created, as public support was essential to fight terrorism, he said. "The police must work hand-in-hand with the public, but at the same time see to it that this does not in any way hamper the fight against terrorism."

**Call To Crush Communalists**

Mr Gandhi said there were "certain people" in the state who were using religion to promote their own political interests. Religion should be separated from politics at all costs since the mixing of the two not only led to communalism, "but is also a barrier to progress."

"I do not believe what people say about you" (Punjabis) being communal, since the very Gurus and rishis of this state have always preached the message of religious toleration and universal brotherhood, he said.

"There can be no one more secular than Guru Amar Dass, the founder of this place where I am standing," the Prime Minister said, adding that perhaps the most secular man who ever ruled India was Maharaja Ranjit Singh who had as his subjects Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims and Christians.

Later, in the afternoon, Mr Gandhi addressed a freedom fighters' rally at Jaitu, where his grandfather, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, had been arrested and handcuffed this day 65 years ago. Without referring directly to the Pepsi Cola project, he said: "We started the green revolution from Punjab and now we are starting another revolution from here.... We have now cleared a project for the state by which all middlemen will be abolished."

Mr Gandhi explained that while the green revolution had led to impressive gains in production, it had failed to give desired profits to farmers who had been left to the mercy of middlemen. "We will pioneer a food processing center here which will provide employment to about 50,000 people. We are opening the center here because the people of Punjab are reliable and responsible."

#### **Paper Reports Developments in Indian Economy**

##### **Rise in Trade Deficit**

46001066 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English  
20 Sep 88 p 17

[Text] New Delhi, September 19. India's trade deficit during the first four months of the current financial year (April-July) has jumped by Rs 504 crores compared to the same period last year. The increase in trade deficit at Rs 2,618 crores is despite a 21.2 per cent growth in exports as imports went up by 22 per cent.

In rupee terms, the exports during the April-July period stood at Rs 5,807.69 crores, while imports at Rs 8,425.88 crores. The trade deficit in dollar terms works out to \$1,924 million, or \$279 million more than during the first four months of the last financial year. The percentage growth in exports has been 14.4 per cent while that of imports, 15.2 per cent.

Despite the increase in trade deficit in absolute terms, the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh was satisfied that the upward trend in imports notices during the first two months of the current financial year had been checked. As against the growth rate of imports of over 29 per cent in April-May period, the rate for the first four months works out to 22 per cent in rupee terms.

Stressing the need for a stable export policy—after all the whole thesis of liberalization was based on the hope that industries would be internationally competitive to

export—Mr Singh at a news conference here regretted the meager export performance of large houses. The government would have to think of imposing some kind of export obligation on them if they fail to step up exports voluntarily.

Without a substantial step-up in exports, the debt trap would be unavoidable, he said. A dialogue with large houses including apex trade and industry bodies like ASSOCHAM and FICCI was currently on. It was expected to be completed in October.

Mr Singh said the share of imports in India's GNP currently ranging between six and seven per cent was not by itself large, but the problem was that exports accounted for only 4.5 per cent of the GNP. The share of exports must go up to a minimum of 10 per cent.

He spoke about a two-pronged crash campaign launched by the government to reduce the import bill for bulk items such as fertilizers, iron and steel and edible oils, and maximize incremental exports where feasible. The export target for the current financial year at Rs 8,795 crores envisaged a growth rate of 20 per cent over the last year's performance, but measures had been initiated already to exceed this target by 10 per cent to reach Rs 20,000 crores.

Mr Singh disclosed that detailed sector-wise exercises were on to achieve the higher export target. Based on certain guidelines given by the cabinet, a package of export measures for immediate spurt in exports was being designed and implemented for selected product groups. A special committee of secretaries headed by the cabinet secretary was meeting every week to monitor the progress.

Among the important decisions taken by the special committee were the export of non-basmati rice of about 100,000 tonnes valued Rs 50 crores, and export of 40,000 tonnes of cement worth about Rs 20 crores.

The committee has also finalized incremental exports of aluminum and alumina produced by NALCO that would yield additional earnings of Rs 215 crores. A special scheme has also been evolved, in consultation with SAIL, to ensure 100 per cent supplies of pig iron, billets and HR coils and these exports are projected to go up to Rs 1,650 crores from Rs 1,050 crores.

Mr Singh also announced the launching of a simplified and flexible scheme to provide garment exporters with basic imported inputs at international prices so that they could cater to the rapidly changing needs of foreign buyers. The need for the scheme called blanket import-export pass book was felt due to fast changing fashions and the demand of the exporters to have freedom to import the required inputs soon after getting the order so as to meet the very tight delivery schedules.

### Surplus in Major Crops

46001066 Bombay *THE TIMES OF INDIA* in English  
20 Sep 88 p 7

[Text] The address of the president, Mr N. C. Kankani, at the 95th annual conference of the United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI), held at Coonoor on the 13th, was noteworthy in two important respects.

First, it praised the Union government for its "thrust" on exports of plantation crops which was "tellingly" demonstrated by the abolition of export duty on coffee, and the special schemes of promotional incentives announced for the export of south Indian tea.

Second, it highlighted the industry's new problem of coping with the ever increasing production of the major plantation crops—tea, coffee and rubber.

The UPASI felt particularly pleased about the abolition of the export duty on coffee, a levy it considered irrational in the context of the acute competition in world markets. The coffee crop of the current season (1988-89) was expected to reach an all-time high level of two lakh tonnes, a figure which has been fixed as the target for the last year of this century. In tea, too, the country expected to produce 700 million kg (including south India's share of 160 million kg), a figure which would exceed the Seventh Plan target by at least 5 million kg.

The production of natural rubber, expected to reach 255,000 tonnes at the end of this year, was also in excess of the plan target by 11,000 tonnes. Except in rubber, where the production would still have to be substantially increased by imports, to meet the full requirements of the rubber goods manufacturing industry, the disposal of the tea and coffee crops would raise serious difficulties in marketing, the president added.

With tea supplies continuing to be in excess of demand, the prices are likely to be affected adversely. Already, the average auction price of tea in south India was 9 per cent and in north-east India, 5 per cent below the average price realized last year. By contrast, the average auction prices in Sri Lanka, Kenya and Indonesia had moved up this year by 17 per cent, 18 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

Mr Kankani called for a special consideration of the regional problems faced by south Indian plantations. Tea exports from the south had slumped from 44 per cent of the production in 1984 to 25 per cent in 1987 (32 million kgs). This year, following the special incentives given, the export may rise to 50 million kgs. He said that the obligation to sell 75 per cent of the production through public auction had seriously affected the marketing situation. In fact, with the production now reaching new heights, there seems to be no need for such a stipulation.

In his inaugural address, the Union minister of state for commerce, Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, observed that though tea, coffee and spices continued to be the main export items in the agricultural sector, the prospects for any appreciable export growth in this sector did not seem to be bright.

Mr Munshi did not go into the question of how to deal effectively with the surplus crops, as in the case of coffee, in which the growers hand over their entire production to the coffee board for marketing. The problem with coffee is quite serious since, out of a production of 2 lakh tonnes, the domestic market is not capable of absorbing more than 60,000 tonnes, and the export to quota countries (countries covered by the International Coffee Agreement) is pegged at around 50,000 tonnes only, and the entire balance of nearly a lakh of tonnes have to be sold to non-quota countries, under stiff competition with large growers like Brazil and Columbia, and heavy discounts have to be offered.

The UPASI president has also pleaded that the Wanchoo Commission's recommendation to bring agricultural crops under the purview of the Central Income Tax Act to set right the irregularities in taxing agricultural income by the states. There was no response to this proposal from the government side.

## IRAN

**Tax Revenues Fall Due To Falling Exports**  
46400016b London *KEYHAN* in Persian 29 Sep 88 p 4

[Text] The government's tax revenues do not even cover the budgets of the the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. Research on the amount of taxes collected shows that the Islamic Republic's tax revenues in the years 1364 [21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986], 1365 [21 March 1986 - 20 March 1987] and 1366 [21 March 1987 - 20 March 1988] covered 70 percent, 66 percent and 63 percent, respectively of the ministries of Education and Training, Health Treatment and Medical Education, and Culture and Higher Education.

The above information was given to domestic correspondents and media representatives by the Islamic Republic's deputy minister of economic affairs and finance for legal affairs.

The deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, continuing his remarks, added: "In many countries tax revenues are 80 percent of the government's income."

During his press conference this official gave declining imports and limited domestic production caused by foreign exchange shortages as the chief reasons for the decline in tax revenues.



### **Twenty-nine Percent of Work Force Engaged in Agriculture**

46400016c London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Oct 88 p 4

[Text] About 29 percent of the nation's 11 million workers are employed in the agricultural sector. Of these workers, 2.95 million are men and 250 are women [as published].

Dr Jamshidi, chief of the Iran Statistics Center, recently took part in a press conference and made public the initial results of the nation's first agricultural census. In this project 2,987,595 million working families were identified, responsible for about 3,330,000 operating units.

According to the report from the Iran Statistics Center, the 381,725 families in the Province of Khorasan are the largest group of active farmers, and the smallest group are the 27,076 families in the Province of Bushehr.

The chief of the Iran Statistics Center told correspondents that the agricultural census covered 96,441 villages and 496 towns, in addition to the tribal areas. The Province of Bushehr with 736 villages and the Province of Khorasan with 20,241 had the smallest and largest numbers of villages respectively.

The chief of the general agricultural census staff also announced that 3,026 official companies engaged in agricultural activities under the mantle of government organizations have been identified. Of these companies, the largest group of 438 units is in Tehran Province and the smallest, 18 units, is in the Province of Bushehr.

During his press conference Jamshidi discussed the 3.33 million operating units identified in the census. He said: Of these, 2,440,426 operating units are engaged in agricultural operations; 1,557,191 operating units are engaged in orchard activities; 2,280,283 operating units are engaged in animal husbandry; 2,056,465 operating units are engaged in poultry farming; 631,000 operating units are engaged in bee keeping; 52,659 operating units farm silk worms; 1,967 operating units grow flowers and decorative plants, and 778 operating units engage in fish farming.

The chief of the Iran Statistics Center added: Most of the farming operations are in the Province of Khorasan, and the smallest number of farming operations is in the Province of Hormozegan.

### **Stocks of Large Companies Offered for Sale**

46400016a London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Sep 88 p 4

[Text] At the Tehran Stock Exchange—which began operations in mid-Shahrivar [23 August - 22 September]—the shares of nine large factories have been offered for sale.

According to information obtained from Tehran, the base prices of the shares of each of the production units offered for sale have been announced as follows and offered to customers:

For the Sabet Sugar Cube Factory of Khorasan, the fixed price for each share is 3,000 rials; the base price for the Kashan velvet and silk factories is 3,000 rials per share; 14,000 rials for the Borujerd textile factories; 3,000 rials for Tehran Absal Industries; Pars Electric Industries of Tehran, 4,000 rials; Tehran Bahman Production Industries, 2,300 rials; Shiraz Electric Industries, 15,000 rials; and Rasht Automobile Electrical Products Industries (Lucas Tender), 20,000 rials.

Reports from Tehran state that sales on the Tehran Stock Exchange are done by computer, and that in half a minute the buyer can obtain tens of items of information pertaining to the desired stocks and then buy stocks using the information. The stocks are sold to the highest bidder, and therefore each stock has a specific base price.

KEYHAN's special reporter announced that the opening of the Tehran Stock Exchange—in which a basic role was played by the Bank of Mines and Industry—the views of merchants, the people, and the investors were not obtained and the market for the stocks offered on the exchange was not as brisk as expected.

### **Khamushi on Activities, Future Projects of Energy Ministry**

46400012 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Sep 88 p 4

[Interview with Director of the Ministry of Energy Engineer Seyyed Abol-Hasan Khamushi by IRNA; date and place not specified]

[Text] In accordance with prior agreements between Iran and China, a joint cooperation agreement was signed between the two countries in the area of the Phase 2 studies of Karkheh dam in Khuzestan. According to this agreement, China will provide the technical services needed by Sahab Qods company (the consulting company for Karkheh dam), affiliated with the Ministry of Energy. Following this agreement, preliminary talks between the two countries regarding the joint construction of two power plants in Kerman and Gilan also began.

This statement was announced by Engineer Seyyed Abol-Hasan Khamushi, the director of the Ministry of Energy. Speaking in a meeting with an IRNA reporter, he explained the completed activities as well as the ongoing water and electricity projects of the Ministry of Energy.

The director of the Ministry of Energy, explaining the activities of this Ministry in the years following the revolution, said: The practical capacity of the power plants in the country at the end of 1357 [March 1979] was about 6,115 megawatts, reaching 11,046 megawatts by the end of 1366 [March 1988], in the years after the Islamic revolution, with the installation and operation of

steam and natural gas turbine power plants. That marks a total increase of 4,931 megawatts, which is an average annual growth of about 6.8 percent.

### **Increase of Electricity Production**

He added: The production of electrical energy went from 17,386 million kilowatts per hour in 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] to 42,429 kilowatts per hour in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]. Also, the maximum consumption in the country, which was 3,486 megawatts in 1357 [1978-79], reached 7,743 in 1366 [1987-88], which marks an average annual increase of 10.5 percent.

### **Operations of Ministry of Energy**

Explaining the operations and activities of this Ministry, he pointed to the number of customers of the electricity establishments affiliated with the Ministry of Energy and said:

The number of customers of the electricity establishments affiliated with the Ministry of Energy was 3,399,000 at the end of 1357 [March 1979], which increased to 8,207,000 at the end of 1366 [March 1988]. In other words, in the course of the years after the Islamic revolution, a total of 4,808,000 new customers have been added, which marks an average annual increase of 10.3 percent.

Engineer Khamushi also pointed out that with the electrification of 1,037 villages in 1366 [1987-88], the number of villages with electricity in the country reached 21,391 by the end of that year. In this connection, he pointed out that the total number of villages that received electricity in the years after the revolution is 17,034, which is an average annual increase of 19.3 percent.

### **New Projects**

In the area of increasing the production of needed electricity in the future, the director of the Ministry of Energy said: In light of the projections and studies made, the Ministry of Energy has taken steps to build power plants capable of producing a total of 6,800 megawatts of power. In the same connection, he added: The reconstruction and completion of the projects underway and the operation of 8 energy production units in the course of the next 2 years will add 2,700 megawatts to the electricity production capacity of the country.

He also made assurances that through the decreased consumption of electricity on the part of people combined with the reconstruction of two power plants, about 750 megawatts will be added to the electrical production of the country in the next 2 months, and that, by establishing the correct level of production and consumption, blackouts will be minimized and ultimately will end.

### **Present Condition of Power Plants**

He then referred to the present condition of the power plants in the country and said: At the present, the Ministry of Energy utilizes all its available resources, and the occasional blackouts are directly related to consumption. He added: Because of the lack of production reserves, when technical problems occur and power plants need to be repaired, the Ministry of Energy is forced to decrease electrical production.

In the same connection, thanking and praising the compatriots who have continued to help the Ministry of Energy through their cooperation and conservation of electricity, the director of the Ministry of Energy once again requested that the revolutionary Muslim people of our country continue to help the Ministry of Energy in this difficult task in order to help boost up the national economy as much as possible, and also to ensure that the electricity needed by domestic industries can be provided.

### **Water and Dam Building Projects**

In this meeting, Mr Khamushi then explained the programs of the Ministry of Energy in the area of water and dam building and said: In our country, which is located in a relatively dry climate with little rainfall, efforts have been made from ancient times to obtain underground and surface water.

He added: Today, the Ministry of Energy, by taking charge of the procurement, control and distribution of water used for agriculture and industry, and by preserving and protecting the water resources throughout the country, has taken steps to implement large and small water projects, including the building of dams, the expansion of irrigational and drainage networks, water outreach, the production of drinking water for cities, and the study of the water resources of the country. The role of the regional water agencies throughout the country in the advancement of these projects is very significant.

In conclusion, Engineer Khamushi said: Continuing the previous projects and plans, the Jiroft, Pishin, Saveh, Barun and Marun dams; the irrigational and drainage networks of Sefidrud, Dorudzan, Zarrineh Rud, Hamidiyyeh, Qods of Varamin, Garmsar, and Dalaki Sarqanat; the secondary networks of Sistan and Baluchestan; the water outreach networks of Esfahan, Tabriz, Ardabil, Shiraz, Rasht and Anzali; and the water outreach network of Mashhad are among the projects underway.

## **PAKISTAN**

### **Jl Joins Islamic Democratic Alliance**

*46000021d Karachi DAWN in English*

*11 Oct 88 pp 1, 5*

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 10: In a dramatic political move, Jamaat-i-Islami on Monday night joined the Islami Jamhuri Ittehad ("Islamic Democratic Alliance")—a conglomeration of eight political parties and splinter groups—headed by Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi.

The decision came in the wake of four-hour long meeting held between Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Husain Ahmad, Senator Prof Khursheed Ahmad and Punjab Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and NWFP Chief Minister Lieutenant General (ret.) Fazle Haq.

During the meeting the Jamaat leaders succeeded in getting assurance from the Punjab Chief Minister that all student leaders of Islami Jamiat-i-Tulaba, arrested on murder charges would be released.

Besides, the Jamaat has also been offered secretaryship of the Alliance.

The meeting between Jamaat leaders and the two Chief Ministers was held in the Federal capital earlier on Monday afternoon. The scheduled meeting of the leaders of the component parties of the alliance was delayed for several hours for this purpose.

Qazi Husain Ahmad and Prof Khursheed Ahmad surprised the newsmen when they arrived at the venue of the meeting along with the two chief ministers in a flag car.

They went straight into the meeting hall to announce their alignment in the presence of other leaders of the component parties, who had gathered to decide the allotment of alliance tickets to the parties for the November 16 elections.

The Jamaat-i-Islami, it may be mentioned, had participated in the first round of talks held between the component parties of the Alliance before its formation but had later refused to join it till their conditions, including withdrawal of cases against leaders of Islami Jammamat-i-Tulba and lifting of ban from students unions, were accepted.

Talking to newsmen after making formal announcement to join the alliance, Jamaat Chief Qazi Husain Ahmad said that Mr Nawaz Sharif has assured them that all cases against Jamiat leaders would be withdrawn and added "some immediate steps have also been taken in this regard."

Senator Qazi Husain Ahmad explaining the reasons for Jamaat's alignment with Islamic Democratic Alliance told newsmen that the basic principles of his party, i.e., enforcement of Shariah and support to Jihad-i-Afghanistan, have been adopted by this alliance.

He said five main points tabled by his party have been included in the seven-point manifesto of the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

Qazi Husain Ahmad said that his party has been assured by the Chief Minister that elections would be held on November 16.

PNA's Flag, Symbol: Answering a question, he disclosed that the component parties of the alliance will fight under one flag and election symbol. The flag and symbol are the same as that of PNA during 1977. He said that the colour of the flag will be green with "nine stars." No addition in stars will be made even if some other party joins this alliance, he stressed. He said that the alliance has already applied to the election commission for allocating "plough" as the election symbol. However, the second preference will be "lantern."

The Jamaat chief answering a question told reporters that his party's demand to lift ban from the students union had not been acceded to by the Chief Ministers but hastened to add: "We all will work unitedly to solve this issue." He said that ban on any type of union was against the spirit of democracy.

Qazi Husain Ahmad stressed that the elections should be held in a free, fair and impartial manner on November 16 and demanded that election commission should be given wide-ranging powers for this purpose.

He was of the opinion that his party wanted to create congenial atmosphere during the forthcoming general elections and called upon the political forces to avoid the policy of confrontation.

Prof Khursheed Ahmad hoped that his party would play an effective role in the alliance to enable it to provide national leadership to the people.

A permanent structure of the alliance has also been set-up with Mr Jatoi as President. The secretaryship has been offered to the Jamaat, which will likely appoint Prof Khursheed, while Senator Maulana Samiul Haq has been unanimously elected as its Vice-President.

Agencies add:

Senator Qazi Husain Ahmed, said that country was passing through crisis and it would have been difficult to play an effective role without joining other parties.

The IDA component includes National People's Party, Pakistan Muslim League (Fida group), Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (Darkhwasti group), Jamiat Ahle Hadees, Hizb-i-Jihad Party and the opposition group headed by Syed Fakhr Imam.

Today's meeting of IDA was attended by NPP chief Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, Jamaat Islami Amir Qazi Husain Ahmed, Maulana Ajmal Qadri, Senator Qazi Abdul Latif, Agha Murtaza Pooya, Syed Falhr Imam, Lieutenant General (ret) Fazle Haq and Mr Nawaz Sharif.

The meeting was held at the residence of Dr Sarfaraz Mir, local head of the NPP.

In an informal chat with newsmen Interior Minister Malik Nasim Aheer confirmed that the alliance will be led by Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, its Vice President will be from JUI, while Secretary-Generalship has been given to the Jamaat-i-Islami.

However, Maulana Ajmal Qadri, General Secretary, JUI, told newsmen that his party had not yet accepted the positions given to parties in the IDA on Monday.

When the attention of the Jamaat chief was drawn toward the statement of Mr Wali Khan, regarding boycott of the elections, he said he had predicted one year ago that Mr Wali Khan, if he failed to join any alliance, would surely boycott the elections as, Gazi Sahib maintained, he (Wali) wanted to escape from the election scene.

### PPP Releases Manifesto

46000021a Karachi DAWN in English 14 Oct 88 p 5

[Text] Karachi, Oct 13: Following are the highlights of the Pakistan People's Party election manifesto:

Countrymen. Pakistan is today facing a grave crisis striking at the very roots of our Nationhood. A crisis that began with the illegal overthrow of the elected government of the people, the assassination of the popularly elected Prime Minister and saviour of the Nation who brought back 90,000 Prisoners of War with honour and saved Pakistan when an earlier military dictatorship had divided it. The sole motto of the authoritarian regime was: destroy the PPP which is the voice of the people, the voice of the weak, the dispossessed, the discriminated.

Once again we stand on the precipice. Once again the anguish of a whole generation waits to be articulated into a creative quest. Yet the sacrifice and struggle, the lashings, and the lonely defiance in a death cell have not gone in vain. They have steeled our purpose. We shall heal the wounds. We shall overcome.

We shall overcome with humility and peace. We shall overcome with love and forgiveness. We shall overcome the indignity and hunger. We shall overcome the humiliation of being shelterless, of being unemployed, of being illiterate. We shall overcome the outrage of poverty in the midst of plenty.

We are confident that the courageous people of our land, will come forward and strengthen the hands of the Pakistan People's Party in the forthcoming elections scheduled for November 16, 1988. A victory for the PPP is a victory for the people, for the Nation, for freedom, hope, dignity, equality, justice. An end to poverty, bitterness, vegeance, violence. Together we shall face the challenges. Together we shall climb the highest mountain tops and build the broken bridges. Together we shall herald the dawn of democracy and the promises of a new tomorrow.

### Our Aims:

1. To uphold the high ideals of Islam based on the concept of brotherhood, harmony, tolerance and egalitarianism;
2. To unite the Nation and give a sense of national pride based on equity and justice;
3. To restore representative, constitutional and parliamentary rule which safeguard provincial autonomy, ends the sense of discrimination and strengthens the foundations of the State;
4. To ensure equal social status and safeguard human rights in all its dimensions;
5. To strengthen democratic processes by a broad political consensus and involve maximum participation of all groups and individuals to give lasting stability to civilian rule;
6. To maximise utilization of our National potential and human resources, by making the economy self reliant and prevent the erosion of the human and natural resource base of Pakistan.
7. To establish and maintain peace and harmony in civil society and ensure security and protection of life, honour and property of every citizen irrespective of his political affiliation, religion, caste, race and sex;
8. To eliminate poverty by the creation of a middle class created by encouraging investment and transfer of technology;
9. To safeguard our frontiers by high alertness in defence capability while simultaneously seeking regional peace and stability through pursuing a rational foreign policy, while maintaining our commitments.

The Pakistan People's Party reaffirms its abiding faith in the basic principles expressed in its philosophy:

"Islam is our Faith

"Democracy is our Policy

"Socialism is our Economy

"Shahadat for our Cause

"All Power to the People."

"Shahadat for our Cause" is born out of the struggle for the rights of the people relentlessly waged by the workers and cadres of the PPP. Martyrdom in the Just Cause is one of the fundamental principles of Action in Islam. Man's triumph in this world is not only the story of material success but also of continuous struggle for

attaining higher levels of consciousness and self realisation. Man has achieved dignity by refusing to submit to the forces of oppression, by upholding the principles of social justice and where necessary by laying down his life for the Cause. Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was one such man. His supreme sacrifice has strengthened us for resolute struggle against the forces of oppression, obscurantism and in justice.

#### Highlights of Our Programme:

- Restore the 1973 Constitution, provide greater provincial autonomy, abolish the concurrent list, and increase the powers of the Senate. Ensure effective devolution of authority at the grassroot level.
- Ensure honourable return of political exiles and release of detainees; Compensation for galleded, lashed and jailed workers of all the parties. Eternal flame to be lit in honour of the Martyrs of Democracy.
- Develop technology, establish a world class institute of technology.
- Eliminate corruption through setting personal examples by all Public servants; Annual statement of income and wealth to be made public.
- Build Armed Forces which are efficient and modern, with an enhanced deterrent capability.
- Ensure freedom of speech and association. Abolish National Press Trust and free the Associated Press of Pakistan from control. Advance the cause of working journalists.
- Ensure freedom of expression in prose, verse and all art forms. Build cultural centers in all provinces. A second TV channel in other languages like Seraiki, Pushtu, Gujrati and Hindku.
- De-centralize the administration, institute directly elected district education and health officers. District management to be increasingly handed over to local bodies.
- Develop the Tribal areas and settle the demands of the Northern Areas according to the wishes of the people.
- Repeal all discriminatory laws against women, including Hudood Ordinance, 1979. Womens rights to be strengthened to bring them at par with men.
- Abolish child labour. Special homes for senior citizens.
- Integrate the minorities as equal citizens. Their religious and social institutions to be self managed.
- Abolish brutal and dehumanising behaviour of the police and prison authorities.
- Increase job opportunities through massive development programme. National manpower plan to be integrated with vocational and career guidance.
- As a party of workers and peasants, minimum wage of workers will be increased and protected from inflation. Unemployment benefits and labour laws to be updated. Reinstate all retrenched workers under ML 052. Contract system of labour and forced labour to be banned.
- Evolve a national plan for rehabilitation, training and employment of handicapped people.
- Abolish feudalism by destroying its political and economic stranglehold. Comprehensive land reforms, land to the landless, full ownership to benamdar peasants.
- Make Tarbela Dam fully functional and judicious and achieve equitable apportionment of Indus water.
- Introduce free and compulsory education up to class X, 100 percent enrolment in 5 years. Vocational and polytechnic schools at Tehsil level. Student Unions to be revived. More merit scholarships. A minimum of 4.5 percent of GNP is to be Constitutionally guaranteed for education and will be nonrelapseable.
- Accelerate Power development programme with two dams at Bhasha and Dassu. Nuclear technology for energy needs and oil and gas exploration and pipe laying from field to refinery. Electricity generation capacity to be increased to 40,000 MW by the end of the century.
- Provide safe and economical transport by extending railway system, roads and highways, building bridges and opening inland water transport. Rapid transit system for major cities.
- Encourage private sector by abolishing bureaucratic restraints. De-regulate industrial sanctioning procedure. No nationalization of industries.
- Encourage small scale industries; their credit ceiling to be increased; labour laws and other controls to be softened.
- Introduce fair and simple tax system conducive to rapid development.
- Improve banking and financial services, size and depth of money and capital markets to be expanded and increase in domestic savings achieved.
- Consolidate the public sector. Workers and professionals to play a greater role in management and to share in ownership and profits. No de-nationalization except through—privatization—by offering shares to workers and small share holders and retaining management control.

—Implement the Saindak mineral project. Three new steel mills at Kalabagh, Chagai and Swat/Chitral.

—Provide "Health for All." Preventive health services and social security to be upgraded. Career structure for all graduates. National drugs formulary.

—Eradicate cultivation and transport of Narcotics. Establish treatment and rehabilitation services for drug addicts.

—Build half a million houses every year for the shelterless. Initiate housing projects for urban and rural poor. Increase efforts to be made towards workers housing programme. Town and regional planning to be given priorities.

—Develop tourist industry through incentives to private sector. Efforts to be made to foster internal tourism and attract foreign tourists.

—Involve overseas Pakistanis in nation building activities by removing obstacles and anomalies.

—Conduct an independent nonaligned foreign policy. Efforts to be made to free Gulf and the Indian Ocean from rivalry and nuclear weapons. Bilateralism to be adopted in relations with all countries specially super powers. Just settlement of Kashmir issue. Solidarity with oppressed people of the world. Implementation of Geneva Accords.

**Analyst Praises Role of Supreme Court**  
46000021c Karachi DAWN in English 11 Oct 88 p 9

[Article by Ikram Ullah]

[Text] What is the legal, constitutional and moral position of the present caretaker governments in the light of the Supreme Court's historic judgment of Oct 5?

Whereas the echoes of this verdict are ringing in every home and hearth of Pakistan and even beyond our shores, the issue of the caretaker governments has suddenly assumed a new significance. This significance is born of the Supreme Court judgment itself, although the final verdict does not mention even a single word on this controversial issue.

This does not, however, mean that the Supreme Court has not applied its mind to this matter. During the course of the hearing of this crucial appeal, the learned judges expressed categorical opinions on many allied matters, including the nature of the present caretaker governments in the provinces, at the Centre as well as about the requirement or otherwise of a Prime Minister in such a setup.

No verdict was given on the issue because none was asked for. The relief sought for, by the Federal Government, was granted last Friday, in the form of a stay order to prevent the holding of the sessions of the National and Punjab Assemblies till the hearing of the appeal.

By upholding the judgment of the learned Lahore High Court, The Supreme Court did not stop there. It went ahead to discuss the gap created by declaring unconstitutional the presidential order of May 29. That is to say, the restoration of the Federal and Provincial Assemblies and the respective cabinets.

Whereas the High Court had held the view that these were dead and as such the dead cannot be brought back to life, the learned Supreme Court did not subscribe to that view. During the course of the hearing of the appeal, it left no doubt that there appeared to be a strong case for the restoration, in case President Zia's notification of May 29 is held void.

The gravity of the situation was so embarrassing that the learned court, out of its deep concern for the situation, advised the parties concerned to work out an honourable mutually acceptable compromise formula outside the court. Hectic efforts were made that very night to arrive at some such settlement. Since we are in a habit of never arising to the occasion and giving too little too late, not much came out of those midnight parleys, except an assurance to the Supreme Court next morning by the Government that elections would be held on Nov 16 and 19, as already committed.

No assurance came from the former Prime Minister that if restored, he would also honour this commitment, by dissolving the restored assemblies. An inquiry from Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan Secretary-General(J), in the court room produced a vague reply instead of a categorical assurance that the court was obviously seeking. Mr Iqbal Ahmed Khan, being not a statesman, missed to grasp the significance of the court question. Mr Junejo was brought to the scene at too late a stage. It goes without saying that Haji Saifullah and Mr Junejo were perhaps taking too many things for granted.

There is no doubt on the issue that the former Prime Minister, during the crucial hearing of the case, failed to make a single public declaration, inside or outside the court, that if restored, he would be able to take the National Assembly with him for a dissolution after passing the budget and then stick to the announced schedule of new general elections in November. If Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo had called a meeting of his parliamentary party which incidentally he actually did for holding the aborted session, and in that feast at Hotel Islamabad, passed such a resolution as suggested above, the scale of the Supreme Court judgment might have tilted in his favour.

But fleeting moments of opportunity have a bad habit not to return. Be that as it may, the Supreme Court, in its verdict has left the question of the caretaker governments wide open, by not mentioning a word about them. This has been deliberately done, not to give any indication of the learned court's mind on the subject, should the issue be subsequently raised before the court. The Honourable court has however, provided sufficient indicators for those who can split legal hair, to understand the constitutional position of the present caretaker governments.

Let us examine it briefly. First and foremost, the Presidential notification dissolving the assemblies and cabinets has been declared a violation of the constitutional clause quoted for the purpose.

Secondly, as a consequence of this unconstitutional act, the Supreme Court has not denied the strong case existing for the restoration of the position prior to this unlawful Presidential Order, which is said to have no legal basis. Says the Court, "The grounds contained in the presidential order dissolving the NA and dismissing Federal Cabinet has no nexus with the preconditions laid down in the Constitution for the President's discretion for dissolving the assembly." The court further observes in its judgment, "This would lead to the consequence that the NA and the Federal Cabinet would stand revived to continue to function for the remaining period of their constitutional period." But in the higher interests of the State, the court withheld itself from following such a course on the grounds that it would cause "a greater state of chaos if the vital process of elections is interrupted."

The Supreme Court held that "the courts always keep in view the higher interests of Pakistan, while resolving matters of national importance in accordance with the constitution and law. It is, therefore, quite obvious that the restoration of the dissolved assemblies and the dismissed cabinets was not allowed since national interests must take precedence over individual rights.

Reading between the lines of the Supreme Court judgment the dispensation of law and the implementation of the constitution do not stand at the back of the present caretaker cabinets. These cabinets clearly fall in the category of 'individual rights' rather than "national interests" as viewed by the Supreme Court. As far as the national interest is concerned, there is hardly any voice in the country, other than the caretakers themselves and a small coterie of their camp followers in their support. On the contrary there is the unanimous demand of all the political parties in Pakistan for their removal. As a matter of fact there is a total national consensus on this issue. In Sind, the provincial caretaker government has already failed and the Federal Interior Minister has himself confessed the possibility of 'Governor Rule' in

that province. Regarding the other three provinces, agitation is gradually building up on this issue and may soon assume a serious shape. It would, therefore, be better for the President to act before it is too late.

So far, inspite of the public agitation, the President has stuck to the old set primarily out of respect for the late President. This was natural and understandable. Removing Gen Zia-ul-Haq's caretaker governments would give the impression of indecent haste. Secondly, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan's legal advisers and the Ministry of Law must have advised him that the caretaker government was quite in order and no violation of the Constitution was involved. The President had no reason not to accept the advice of his legal and constitutional advisers.

Now the situation has altered materially and fundamentally. The Attorney-General of Pakistan has failed to sustain his case before the Supreme Court. His views and interpretations of the Constitution have been rejected by the learned Court. It has been accepted that the constitution requires a Prime Minister to head a cabinet, even if it is caretaker.

During the hearing of the case the Court was pleased to remark whether it should be made obligatory for the President in future to appoint a caretaker government, with the Prime Minister as its head, and fix a date for elections in the very notification dissolving the Assemblies in the future. Mr Justice Aslam Riaz Husain was pleased to observe "all those gentlemen responsible for the law and order situation are now in the caretaker government."

One can go on quoting the remarks of the learned judges to catch the mood of the Supreme Court as the validity of these caretakers. The Honourable Court even went to the extent of observing that if the aggrieved parties had come to them earlier they might have moved anti-clockwise. So it was a question of timing, not of law. With hardly 40 days left for November 16 it was rightly understandably too late to act otherwise. But this does not apply to the issue of the caretakers.

The Supreme Court has given another very significant indication. On the controversy regarding holding of elections within 90 days the court remarked that instead of raging over this issue of 90 days interpretation, if the court had been approached, the matter would have been clarified much earlier. The lesson which the Supreme Court has tried to teach the politicians is that instead of agitating over constitutional issues, they should have come to the right quarters—the courts.

The higher judiciary of Pakistan has proved, if any proof was needed, that its portals are open even on a Friday or any other holiday to provide justice with the utmost speed, without fear or favour.

The signals from the Supreme Court are loud and clear. If there is any doubt about the legality or constitutional position of the present caretaker cabinets, do not go to the streets but go to the courts in all the provinces as well as the highest court of the country. Whatever is in the interest of the people and State of Pakistan will be granted and with a record top-speed. If they have no legal legs to stand upon, they will crumble in the same way as other orders of Gen Zia-ul-Haq.

### Science Said Decaying in Pakistan

46000021b Karachi DAWN (Supplement) in English  
14 Oct 88 p II

[Article by Azim Kidwai; first paragraph DAWN commentary]

[Text] Science in Pakistan appears to be in a state of decay when seen against the world perspective. It is producing, on the average, only 14 Ph.Ds. per year in science against 5,000 in the UK and 3,000 in India. Scientists engaged in research and development in Pakistan are only one-tenth the number in Israel with a population that is only one-twentieth of Pakistan.

None of them said it in so many words, but almost every presentation pointed to a situation wherein science, the overriding human activity of the present age, seemed to be undergoing a sort of slow decay in the country. Some figures and statistics were so appealing that it seemed the end of the dream for many who had thought that the country would make rapid progress in science and technology thus accelerating economic growth and improving the quality of life of the common man.

The occasion was a well attended Seminar on "Status of Research, Science and Education" last month (September) in Karachi, organised by the PASSP (Pakistan Association of Scientists and Scientific Professions). The speakers at the Seminar were some of the heavy weights in science of the country: Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr M. Masihuddin; former Vice Chancellor, Quaid-e-Azam University, Dr Ahmad Muhiuddin; Chairmen and Professors from the NED University of Engineering, Karachi; and Director PCSIR Laboratories, Karachi, S. Sadrul Hasan Rizvi.

Let us begin quoting from the keynote address of Dr. Ahmad Mohiuddin that reflects well the widening gap between the developed countries, some of the progressive developing countries and the policy that is being structured in Pakistan.

—"As against over 5,000 in R and D (research and development) in Pakistan and around 50,000 for the Muslim world as a whole, the USSR alone has one and a half million, U.S. 744,000, Japan over 500,000 and even Israel with a small population has 50,000—equal to that of the whole Muslim world and ten times more than that of Pakistan."

—Pakistan has about 176 scientists and engineers per hundred thousand population, a pathetically low figure.

—"Six most industrialised nations (U.S., USSR, Japan, West Germany, France, UK) employ 72 per cent of the world researchers and spend 83 per cent of R&D funds. Pakistan which till three years back spent 0.13 per cent of the GNP, seem to be spending now around 0.2 per cent, still a far cry from one per cent of the GNP recommended by UN/UNESCO to be allocated by 1980! U.S. and Japan spend 2.7 per cent, USSR 3.8 per cent, UK 2.5 per cent, India 0.8 per cent (1 per cent now) and Israel 2.5 per cent."

—"Pakistan is at present supposed to have 158,000 scientists and engineers and 60,000 technicians. The R&D manpower at present is estimated to be 5,397, out of which only 209 are Ph.D. holders.... The R&D manpower itself needs to be raised by two-and-a-half times, i.e., up to 12,200, based on the UNESCO criteria of 10 per cent of the total S&T manpower, calculated at 1,400 workers per million population.... In comparison, South Korea has 32,117 R&D manpower, Japan 531,612, UK 86,500, West Germany 128,62 [as printed] and U.S. 744,000."

—The total number of Ph.Ds produced since independence by our universities is 179...the per annum average being 14 Ph.Ds. As is well known, the UK with half of Pakistan's population produces 5,000 Ph.Ds. every year."

These are all alarming figures and sound indicators of the pathetic state we are in.

It was good to find the Secretary, Ministry of Science, Mr. Masihuddin being aware of them. He did not defend against the dismal situation though he largely put the blame on to education in his Inaugural Address:

"The main functions of university education are scholarship, basic research, technology development and service to the community. But most of our 22 universities are strongly biased towards teaching alone, for historical reasons as well as for lack of resources to either conduct research or work towards its application. The number of graduates who obtained their M.Sc., M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees in basic sciences, engineering and technology, medicine and agriculture during the period 1948 to 1986, are 49,946. Out of which the total number of Ph.Ds. awarded is only 179.... In comparison, the annual output of Ph.Ds. in Indian universities in science, medicine, engineering, and other related subjects is 3,000."

His address showed an element of optimism in the Ministry's programme of human resource development in high-tech fields to create "a critical mass of highly trained manpower," the reference being to the 670 scholars sent abroad in the last two years to get Ph.D. degrees in emerging sciences and technologies.



He, however, did not bring into debate such important issues as the NCST (National Commission on Science and Technology) not being functional for the last four years though it was a major element in the Science Policy announced in 1984.

Mr Masihuddin did inform us during the tea-break that the late President Zia-ul-Haq had started taking keen interest in the affairs of science and the long awaited meeting of the NCST was scheduled for August 29, to be presided over by the President. He didn't live to do that.

Mr Masihuddin also said that the figure for the expenditure on science and technology given by the Ministry of Finance was 0.4 per cent and not 0.2 per cent as is usually quoted, though he didn't show any conviction about the figure given by the Finance Ministry.

There was food for thought in another figure given by him: India has allocated RS.18,000 million for its science and technology budget this year (1988-89), and that amount is the same as the allocation for S&T for five years in Pakistan, earmarked in the Seventh-Five-Year Plan!

Prof Dr S. Farasat Ali of the NED Engineering University in his presentation "Engineering University: Shrink it to Raise Its Standards," was of the view that the NED University should review its activity structure. The formula recommended by him was: "Don't shrink student enrolment"; instead, conserve energies and resources for education and research. There should be no staff colony managed by the University and there should be no sports team to represent the University, etc., was his advice.

A hard option perhaps, but he said that in the present climate of Pakistan attention need be focused on research and education at the expense of secondary matters which turn out as the main concern of the administration and the Vice Chancellor.

Yet another professor of the NED University, Dr M. Munir Hasan, highlighted some of the "problems of Technical Research in Pakistan." His panacea was: Freedom to work, incentives, and academic discipline. He also argued as to how the three major objectives could be attained.

In a different vein, Dr S. Sadrul Hasan Rizvi, Director, PCSIR Laboratories, Karachi, was seen arguing on the important subject of "Industrial Research" which has not made much headway in Pakistan though sizeable sums have been spent in the endeavour to put it on an even keel. He tried to analyse the main constraints in the way of promotion of industrial research.

"...R&D as a supportive tool for industrial development was given a very low priority. Thus R&D could not dovetail with industrial investment process, with the result that Pakistan has not had a happy experience in

transfer of technology," he said. In the same context, he also referred to the five thousand and odd number of scientific manpower in the R&D sector which was a dismally low figure.

Dr Rizvi called for major investment in manpower development of a high calibre if research in Pakistan was to attain a critical size.

By listening to some half a dozen learned discourses by some of the noted figures in science in Pakistan, it appeared from all accounts that science and scientific progress in the country was in a state of disarray. Perhaps, it needed a massive blood transfusion to bring improvement in its anaemic condition.

What seemed really lacking was the commitment and will from the political leadership towards putting science in Pakistan at a higher pedestal. That requires vision of a high order. Only raising funds from 0.2 per cent to 1 per cent as recommended by UN forums, may not do.

The imperatives at the dawn of the 21st century in thought processes and planning at the highest level at present should be clear and not clouded. Science is poised to emerge as the colossus in human affairs, dwarfing every other human activity, and determining the destiny of every nation. Take it or leave it.

**Editorial Calls for Healing by Democracy**  
46000021e Karachi DAWN in English 11 Oct 88 p 9

[Editorial: "Let Politics Do the Healing"]

[Text] Among the many lessons the past holds for us that outlawing of political or quasi-political associations or prohibiting political activities for long periods invariably proves counter-productive. Successive Governments in Pakistan seem to have excelled in this exercise in futility. There have been wholesale bans, as in 1958 or 1979, when all political parties were ordered to be dissolved; and there have been specific bans—like those on the Awami League in East Pakistan and on the National Awami Party in West Pakistan. In each case, the prohibition served only to drive the parties underground—for them only to re-emerge stronger after a lapse of time and hardened by the bitter experience. For this reason, Mr Ilahi Bux Soomro's hint that the Government could ban ethnic parties and groups would hardly find favour with those who have seen the political and other consequences of such arbitrary steps. We, of course, wholly share the Information Minister's concern over the damaging effects of the politics of ethnicity in Sind. Hundreds have been killed, many more injured or maimed and property worth millions of rupees destroyed in riots and disturbances with communal overtones. Yet all this would seem insignificant compared to the damage done to the very fabric of civil society in the province,

especially in its urban centres. What then is to be done to contain the swift current of ethnicity and prevent it from becoming more virulent? It must be realised that there is a long background to the growth of ethnic parties and groups and to the endemicity of violence in Sind. The absence of democratic institutions, the systematic demolition of federalism, the long spells of Martial Law and the consequent ban on political activity, and the non-existence of forums for ventilation of grievances—all combined to stifle dissent accentuate a sense of deprivation among the people and create an atmosphere of mutual antipathy and distrust among various sections of the community. The partyless elections to the National and Provincial Assemblies and to the local bodies further eroded broad national and political loyalties. Instead of political parties with their national programmes, there were independent candidates who felt no compunction about presenting themselves as champions of narrow group or parochial interests and appealing to ethnic and clannish loyalties to secure votes. While this scenario held good for the entire country, in Sind, given its peculiar demographic situation, the politics of narrow loyalties acquired a sinister twist. The local bodies elections of November 1987 were especially emotive in nature and were fought largely on parochial grounds. They were preceded and followed by acute ethnic tensions and violence, the latest examples of which are the Black Friday in Hyderabad and the tragic killing in Karachi and elsewhere. Obviously, feelings of animosity nurtured over the years cannot be mollified and redirected into the mainstream of national sentiment overnight. Administrative steps, like tougher security measures, while necessary in specific situations of turmoil and strife, have proved no cure for the malaise. By the same token, a ban, as suggested by Mr Soomro, will only drive the ethnic groups deeper under the surface, where they will perhaps acquire greater strength and virulence,

besides a halo of martyrdom. Inevitably, they would choose other labels for themselves and operate under deceptive covers.

There is no cut-and-dried formula for solving Sind's highly complex intercommunal situation. The cutting edge of militant ethnicity can be blunted only if the causes that gave rise to it are removed. These causes are rooted in the people's competing economic demands and in the province's linguistic and cultural mix. Only an uninterrupted democratic process, coupled with the realisation of the aspiration for fuller provincial autonomy can defuse the situation. In other words, a free and open interplay of national political forces alone can be relied upon to succeed in containing the forces of parochialism and resolve grievances, imagined or real, within a broader national framework. It will, no doubt, take time and patient and painstaking efforts to restore the people's confidence in the efficacy of the political process to reconcile differences and promote harmony and fellow feeling. It must be realised that democracy alone has the built-in mechanism for absorbing regional and sub-regional rivalries and demands and resolving social and political contradictions. A ban on ethnic parties will not make them disappear or weaken their negative potential. The answer to associations based on the primordial appeal of ethnicity lies in the revival of the normal process of opinion formation and in the full development of representative institutions, both of which favour the emergence of broadbased political formations with each representing a wide aggregation of interests and outlooks. In any case, any hasty action in the matter will be inadvisable at this stage when a peaceful atmosphere is essential for the holding of the national elections. Indeed, it would be prudent to leave the question of ethnic parties to be decided by the next Government in the light of the experience to be gained through the next month's elections.